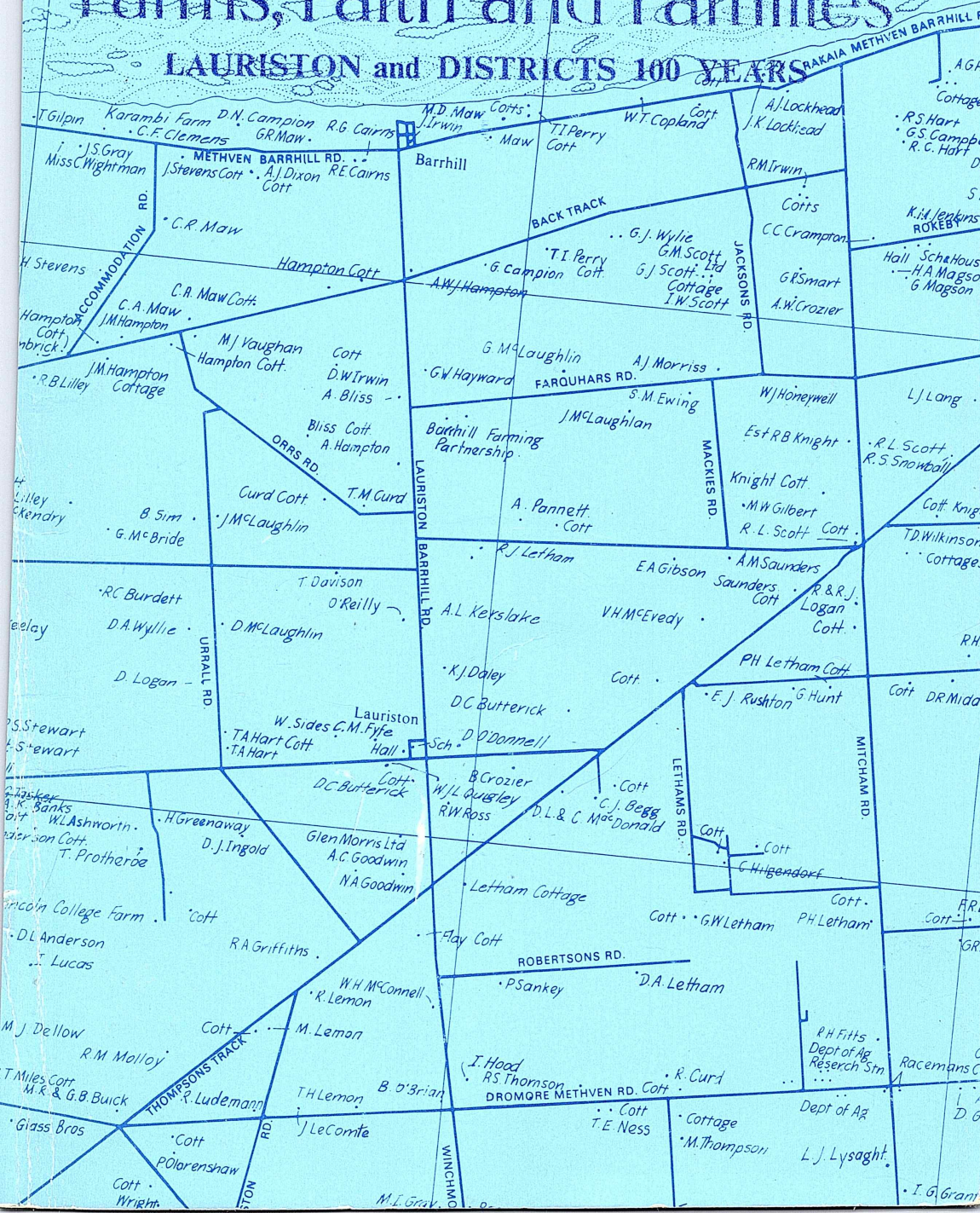


Farms, Faith and Families

LAURISTON and DISTRICTS 100 YEARS



I visited Lauriston School
on 6th December 1995.

John K. Ross, 15.00
34 WAUKAWA ROAD,
Picton.

Farms, Faith and Families

LAURISTON and DISTRICTS 100 YEARS

by

Dorothy Irwin and Laura Cairns

celebrating

LAURISTON SCHOOL CENTENNIAL

1883 - 1983

including

BARRHILL

1877 - 1938

and recognising the Settlers
of the District
Past and Present

LAURISTON SCHOOL CENTENNIAL PROGRAMME

1883 - 1983

INCLUDES BARRHILL, 1877 - 1938

FRIDAY, 8th APRIL—

School Open for Inspection throughout the School Day

7.30 - 11.00 p.m. Disco for the young in the Hall.

7.30 - 11.00 p.m. Registration and Conversazione in Marquee

SATURDAY, 9th APRIL—

11.00 a.m. Welcome, Raising the Flag, Ringing the Bell and Registration.

11.30 a.m. Luncheon

1.30 p.m. Decade Photos

2.15 p.m. Opening of Centennial Project by Sir Charles Hilgendorf.

3.15 p.m. Planting Centennial Tree.

3.30 p.m. Afternoon Tea

8.00 p.m. Centennial Ball in Marquee.

SUNDAY, 10th APRIL—

10.30 a.m. Thanksgiving Service in Lauriston Church.

Followed by a Picnic Lunch in the School Grounds (Bring your own food).

FOREWORD

It is a privilege to present this history of the Lauriston and Barrhill districts. To commemorate the centenary of the Lauriston School the committee decided to record the achievements of the district over the past 100 years.

I must commend the work of Mrs. Dorothy Irwin and Mrs. Laura Cairns who have spent so many hours in researching and compiling this work. We have tried to be as accurate and as complete as possible, and we apologise if there are any errors or omissions.

As we read of the achievements written in this book, we can only admire the vision, perseverance and hard work achieved by previous generations. Their community spirit established all their social, cultural and recreational facilities and most of these clubs are still functioning today. May their efforts, achievements and the energy they portrayed, encourage us to carry on from where they left off.

We welcome you to these celebrations and hope, that many friendships will be renewed and memories revived.

RODGER J. LETHAM,

Chairman, Lauriston School Centennial, 1983.



LAURISTON SCHOOL CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

G. Freear (Headteacher), G. W. Sides, M. Vaughan, T. Curd, R. Lemon
 Mrs. J. Quigley (Registrar), C. Maw (Secretary), R. J. Letham (Chairman), D. W. Irwin (Treasurer)

Inset : K. J. Daley

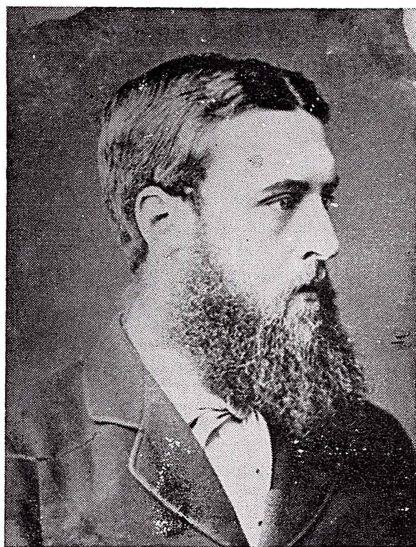
Co Authors of this Booklet



Mrs. DOROTHY IRWIN



Mrs. LAURA CAIRNS



JOHN CATHCART WASON

Founder of Barrhill and Lauriston, lived at Barrhill, 1873-1900

Photo by Courtesy of Turnbull Library

INTRODUCTION

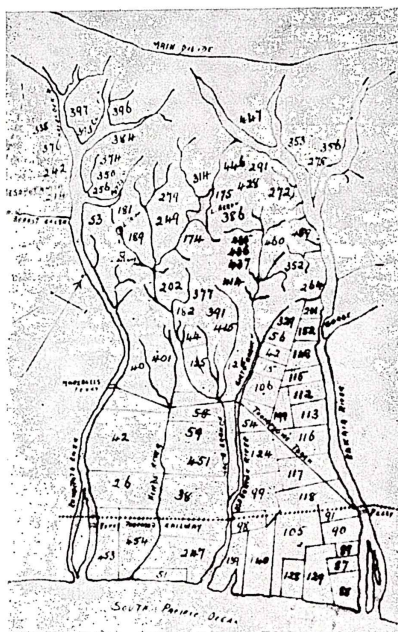
LAURISTON AND BARRHILL DISTRICTS

Lauriston and Barrhill districts were originally part of Run No. 116 (20,000 acres) known first as Lendon. It was taken up by John Hall and his brothers about the end of 1852. They were one of the first runholders in Mid Canterbury. Because of the difficulty of getting sheep across the Rakaia, it appears that the Hall brothers abandoned Lendon without ever stocking it.

Alex. Lean, also owner of the Mt Hutt runs, acquired Lendon in September, 1853. Lean, a Scot, was an architect who designed some major buildings in Christchurch, one of which was the Supreme Court. He was also first chairman of the old Ashburton Road Board "the first public body established to look after the interests of the people of the Ashburton County".

In January 1867 Lendon was transferred to William Dunford, a son of Dunford who was manager of Lavington (Run 117).

We must remember that at this time Mid Canterbury was treeless (apart from the cabbage trees), waterless, tussock country, and therefore each run had to have a frontage on a river and ran back about half way to the next river. Thus Lendon backed onto Winchmore (Run 124) which had the Ashburton River as its frontage.

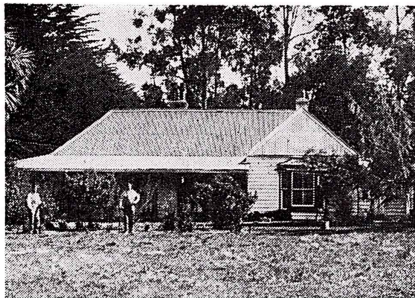


MAP SHOWING EARLY HIGH COUNTRY
AND DOWN COUNTRY RUNS IN 1852

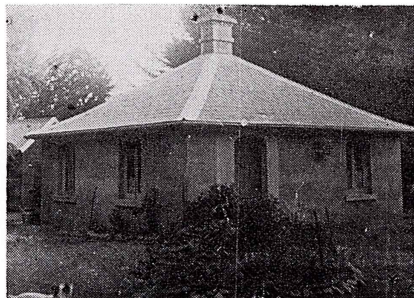
Thompson's Track is found on the early maps illustrating the runs, running westwards from Rakaia. It entered Lendon about a mile south of where Lauriston township now stands, leaving on its northwest boundary.

Once wire fencing was introduced in the 1860's it was usual to fence the runs into three, giving one block on the river to the ewes, and one to the hoggets, and giving the wethers the back paddock. So we can say that Barrhill is in the "ewe paddock" and Lauriston is in the "wether paddock"! The sheep were all merinos then — halfbreds were not introduced until after the water races were made.

In April 1870, John Cathcart Wason took over Lendon from Dunford and renamed it Corwar, after his family property at Barrhill in South Ayrshire, Scotland. His father had turned hilly moorland into arable land, and this is what Wason himself did with the tussock land of Corwar. Wason named the surrounding district Barrhill, and planned the Barrhill village. His aim was to reproduce at Barrhill, the style with which he was familiar in Scotland, i.e. the land owner with his large estate, his workmen and their families comfortably housed in a nearby village with church and school. A



**J. C. WASON'S FIRST 20 - ROOMED
CORWAR HOMESTEAD, 1875**



CORWAR LODGE
built in 1877, lived in until 1935

bakery, post office, workshop and stables, and a hotel were also built in Barrhill village.

The site of Barrhill village was actually surveyed off the Lavington run (No. 117). 17 acres was made available to the commissioners of the Waste Lands Board by Charles Mackie of Lavington, and his daughter Anne Gentles, on 22 August, 1876. Wason planned an avenue of oaks along the road on the west, birches on the east, poplars on the north, and sycamores and lime trees leading up to the market square in the centre, and as such the lanes are named today.

The land boom of 1877-78 brought many more farm worker immigrants to Canterbury, and there was a severe shortage of accommodation. Many settlement schemes were planned, but few like Barrhill. Immigration officers were pressing the road boards to provide houses for new arrivals. The fact that Wason went ahead with Barrhill on his own initiative was because of disagreements with his fellow members on the South Rakaia Road Board — E. S. Coster, C. S. Mackie, H. Lavington and D. J. Holmes.

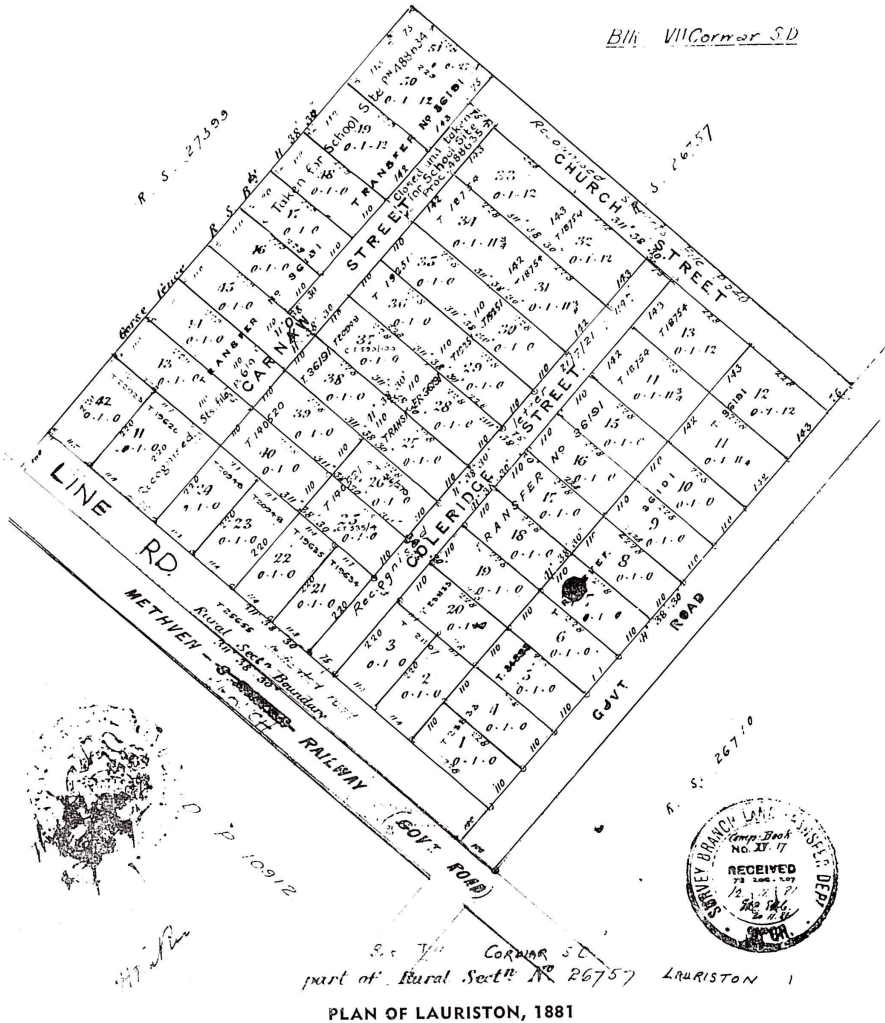
The plan for Barrhill was drawn up by Charles F. Barker, dated 24 March, 1877. 28 sections were marked for sale, four large sections bordering the market square were reserved — two for the church and vicarage, and two for the school and school house. J. C. Wason gave the 2 acres of land for the school as a free grant to the Education Board (23 July, 1877). The first sale of a house section (incl. house) was predictably to a hotel keeper namely George Rimer, bought for £400.0.0 on 5 December, 1877. Other sales went through until Barrhill had a population of over 50. Wason built a boiling down works for mutton (from 1877-1885) which processed up to 100 sheep per day, until the frozen meat industry forced its closure.

From 1886 onwards, villagers were leaving Barrhill — the effects of the depression of the eighties, and the building of the Rakaia-Methven Branch railway line via Lauriston (10 km south of Barrhill) being two of the main reasons. Wason had hoped the railway line would go via the Rakaia-Methven-Alford Forest Road (formerly known as the Chertsey Road).

LAURISTON

The Lauriston district as mentioned earlier was part of Corwar Run (No. 116).

In 1877 during the early subdivision of Corwar Patrick and Robert Laurie bought adjoining rural sections numbers 26757, 28029 and 26763 Rosedale (belonging to Kevin Daley today) 756 acres in all. Patrick and Robert came with their mother and two brothers, David and James, from



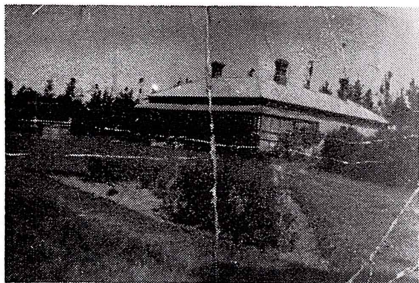
Liverpool, to New Zealand in 1842. Their father, Anthony Laurie, had been a stockbroker there. In 1858 Patrick married Louisa Shand Laurie, and they had a family of 4 boys and 4 girls. Patrick served on the grand jury in 1872. Robert bought a bush felling contract business from Millton Heathcote in 1862, going bankrupt in 1868. We know little more about them until the purchase of these blocks of land in 1877. Unfortunately Patrick Laurie died on 24 April, 1880, aged 49, of apoplexy. His wife, Louisa and brother Robert sold block No. 26757 of 185 acres to Samuel Alexander, and his brother Robert Alexander. They also bought 26763 and 28029.

The need for a township, or small settlement in this area, developed when the route of the Rakaia-Methven railway line was decided. By September, 1879 the railway line had been completed from Rakaia as far as 2 km below Lauriston. And so, the Alexander brothers had a site on their land, the southern end of block no. 26757 at the junction of two government roads — the Line Road, and the road leading towards Barrhill, surveyed.

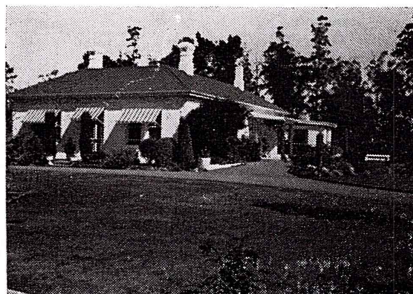
The description of the plan drawn up by the Survey Branch of the Land Transfer Department shows that the survey was done for the Alexanders, by A. J. Lewis, surveyor, and is dated September 1881. The name, Lauriston, is on this plan, and we can only assume that it was named after the first owners of that block, the Laurie Brothers. However it is interesting that 30 miles southeast of Barrhill, in Scotland is the small village of Lauriston — part of the old Corwar estate.

The whole district owes much to the early settlers. They faced the elements of the weather without much protection. In 1885 the government had a scheme for free grants of land equivalent to two acres for every one acre planted in trees. Settlers soon qualified for the maximum land grant available of 250 acres. Thus shelter belts of trees were planted.

The present generation reaps the benefit of this shelter and are wisely continuing to plant, giving protection from the savage nor'westers which sweep down from the Rakaia Gorge. These high winds lifted worked paddocks into the air, depositing the soil against the gorse fences and necessitating the use of lanterns in daylight hours. Such was the strength of these gales that



K. J. DALEY HOME TAKEN 1939
Built by A. Drummond in 1900



K. J. DALEY'S HOME TODAY

children walking to school, had to hold on to tussocks or each other to avoid being blown over. Railway sheep trucks and wagons left at Lauriston, would sometimes "take off" towards Rakaia, with the force of the nor'westers! Max Fyfe recalls that in 1936 he and his father were carting wheat by horse and dray to the railway station where they loaded it onto a railway wagon. To their astonishment when they returned next morning with another load there was no wagon—the brake had not been fully applied and the strong wind had taken it to Rakaia! It is said that these gales seem to come every 15 years. One severe one was in 1885 and others followed in 1900, 1914, 1929, 1945 and 1960. The 1975 gale brought down trees all over this area. Power and telephone poles snapped leaving some without power for two weeks.

In the early days there were illnesses and epidemics — doctors were few, and the fastest transport was by horse. There was one such epidemic in 1881, when five children in one family died from an outbreak of dysentery. Even at Lauriston in February, 1925, the Health Department placed the Postmaster's household in isolation because of a case of poliomyelitis in the family. In 1922 scarlet fever was rife, and the co-writer and her mother were isolated for six weeks. It seems that a large sheet was washed in Jeyes Fluid, and hung over the bedroom door. Everything had to be passed through that door!

In 1929 and the early 1930's, the world wide depression affected New Zealand's economy. The horse and gig continued to be used extensively until about 1936. Even to post a letter, one had to drive over to Lauriston to get it stamped by the Postmaster and sealed in a mail bag before the train from Methven pulled into the station at 8 a.m. It is interesting to note that until the 1930's if a letter was posted in the morning to a Christchurch business firm, one would get a reply back by the evening train. Somehow our mailing system has gone backwards, instead of forwards!

The Lauriston Store was a focal point for all residents for miles around to collect their daily paper and mail. The train came in at 7 p.m. and the mail bag was opened at the store. The Postmaster would call out the names on letters received. If that person was not present, he would place the uncollected mail in their allocated letter box. This was a favourite meeting time when everyone met to discuss their doings of the day.

A significant development in the district was the advent of the Ashburton-Lyndhurst irrigation scheme in the mid 1930's — depression years. This provided work for the unemployed of the time, with ditches, concrete bridges and drains constructed by shovel, wheelbarrow, and horse and dray. When the Labour Government came into power in 1936, the government put all workers on a fixed wage of two pounds and ten shillings a week. This enabled people to become more mechanically minded, doing away with horses and bikes.

When the Second World War broke out in August, 1939, petrol rationing was introduced immediately. Rationing lasted for seven years and the average car allowance was five gallons of petrol per car per month.

During this time tramps (swaggers) were numerous, calling at farms for food and shelter. Housewives were frightened to turn them away, for in many such instances, revenge was taken by burning haystacks.

Returning soldiers from World War II found farmlands made available with the cutting up of larger farms into smaller units made possible with irrigation. Hence the "baby boom" at the local school with 106 pupils through the 1950's and 1960's. The high wool prices of the 1950-51 season helped the returned servicemen to firmly establish themselves.

The 1960's and 1970's have seen the sealing of more roads in the district and the erection of road names and signs has simplified location of properties. Telephone cables have been buried and tree-planting, both ornamental and for shelter, has increased over the years.

With the smaller families of today and more labour saving devices such as automatic washing machines, dishmasters and freezers, country women have more time and energy for outdoor activities. Plantings of such shrubs as rhododendrons, camellias, azaleas and roses, and landscaping of gardens, have added colour and beauty to homesteads.

EDUCATION

LAURISTON SCHOOL 1882 – 1982

The Lauriston district was sparsely populated a hundred years ago, but the settlers were determined to secure a good education for their children. The first householders meeting was held at James Dent's (Bill Gibbs lives there today) in January 1882, and a school committee was formed (listed elsewhere). An acre of land was bought from R. and S. Alexander and the building of the school was completed in 3 months. The first chairman was J. A. Johnston of "Tiptree" and he held that position for 20 years.

An entertainment to celebrate the opening of the school was held on 26 October, 1883. Committee meetings were held regularly and failure to attend, even one meeting, would cause forfeiture of the seat. A concert and ball was held in the Railway Goods Shed on Friday, 12 October, 1900 — charge 1/6 for concert, 2/- for ball. The committee provided refreshments free!

In 1912, the Lauriston and Lyndhurst Sports Club met at the Lauriston School, and the Quadrille Assembly enjoyed fortnightly meetings. On 10 July, 1917 Lauriston School children canvassed the district for subscriptions for the Lord Mayor of London's appeal for the starving Belgium children's fund.

The roll of the school after 3 years was 33 and by 1890 it had increased to 38. One year later it was 48, when extra staff was appointed. It dropped to 20 pupils in the early years of the present century, but in 1916, an application was made for the erection of an additional classroom.

Laureston School
examined May 30th, 1883
 K 671

Attendance:

Number on roll - 23
 Average last Quarter - 16
 " " Week - 18
 Present at examination - 21

38

Teacher - Mr Holmes

Results of examination in Standards:

	IV	III	I	Total
Presented -	7	2	3	7 - 12
No. Rep. p. m.	15.7	-	-	10.1
Passed -	2	0	6	8

Percentage 47

Percentage of number presented in Standards
 to number on roll = $\frac{47}{100}$

General Remarks:

This school had been in operation
 but a few months when I examined.
 Several of the scholars were presented in
 standards considerably in advance of their
 attainments. The older children are very
 backward for their ages, especially in
 grammar, geography, and history. The
 copy books were neatly kept and carefully
 written.

39

I have not the slightest doubt but
 under the skillful and energetic management
 of the present teacher, thoroughly satisfactory
 results will be produced at the next
 examination. The work of the school
 is methodically arranged, and the
 children orderly and attentive.

The building is a very suitable
 one for the purpose intended, and,
 except that another black board and
 seat are required, is well furnished
 and supplied with the usual appliances.

into
 sufficient for

H. F. Lloyd
 Inspector

June 1st, 1883

NEW ZEALAND.—EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

Examination Schedule, Lauriston Public School.Examined 30th May 1883. Wm. L. J. J. Inspector.

DIRECTIONS.—If the sheet is used for more than one class, leave a blank between classes. Attendance columns should, if possible, be filled up with number of attendances since last examination. Two copies of each sheet should be prepared for the Inspector. The columns after that for attendance are for the Inspector to fill up, except the column for remarks, where the Teacher may note if pupils from other classes are presented with the class, and give supplementary information as to attendance, &c.

Class		Presented for Examination in Standard <u>I</u>														REMARKS
No.	PUPIL'S NAME	Age at July 1 of Current Year	Standard last presented	Attends (reg. otherwise)	Read	Spelling	Writing	Arithmetic	Grammar	Geography	History	Singing	Total Score	Presented or Failed for Standard		
															Ys.	Ms.
6	Thomas Dent	10	6	96	t	t	t	t								
7	Thomas Johnston	11	5	98	t	t	t	t								
5	George Hayman	11	3	91	t	t	t	t								
21	Thomas Dickie	9	6	57	t	t	t	t								
16	Thomas P. Orr	9	6	78	t	t	t	t								
13	Elizabeth Hayman	9	4	58	t	t	t	t								
12	Elizabeth Johnston	8	3	59	t	t	t	t								
At age at which scholars passed...		10	1	4 presented - 3 passed - 1 failed												
Standard III.																
8	William Johnston	12	5	96	t	t	t	t	t							
14	Arthur Dent	13	12	89	t	t	t	t	t							
13	Eliza Janet Orr	11	7	58	t	t	t	t	t							
				3 presented - 3 failed												
Standard IV.																
1	Wm. Dickie	13	8	55	t	t	t	t	t	t						
2	Samuel Cox	14	6	89	t	t	t	t	t	t						
15	Alexander Orr	12	11	91	t	t	t	t	t	t						
20	Arthur Dickie	11	9	60	t	t	t	t	t	t						
9	Florence Dent	15	10	100	t	t	t	t	t	t						
10	Mary J. Johnston	16	8	94	t	t	t	t	t	t						
11	Sarah A. Johnston	14	6	93	t	t	t	t	t	t						
At age		15	7	4 presented - 2 passed - 5 failed												

The 50th school jubilee was held on 18 April, 1933 (Easter Tuesday) and more than 200 former pupils attended, including 30 from the first decade. Among those was Mrs G. Kime (nee Sarah Johnston, Dunsandel), a first day pupil, who unfurled the Union Jack. The old school was still in use, in its original state, except that the dangerous bell tower had been demolished. A new classroom had been added in 1925.

Mr H. J. Crothers was Chairman of the Jubilee Committee and Eileen Maidens and Forrest Letham joint Secretaries. At the opening ceremony Mr J. Connelly, M.P. congratulated the school on attaining its golden jubilee, mentioning the numbers of old pupils who had fought in the Great War. Mr J. Moore, Chairman of the Ashburton County Council, Mr A. T. Maidens, a member of the Jubilee Committee and Mr J. W. A. Walker, the earliest teacher (1892-1902) also spoke.

Mr W. E. Smith, the senior returned soldier in the district, laid a wreath at the Memorial Hall in memory of those pupils who were killed in the 1914-18 war and a short service was conducted by Rev. A. S. Morrison (Presbyterian) and Rev. A. H. Barnett (Anglican). Luncheon was then served in the hall, and in a marquee in the grounds (Luncheon 2/-, Ball 3/-).

In the afternoon Mr W. Buchan, earliest Chairman of the School Committee present, planted a jubilee oak tree.

The celebrations concluded with a grand jubilee ball in the evening.

The 75th school jubilee was on 7 April, 1958 (Easter Monday) and there were 300 former pupils, teachers and committee members at the celebrations. The new class room with staff room and cloak room attached, was officially opened by Mr J. S. Irwin, Chairman Canterbury Education Board.

The celebrations began with a recitation by the present day pupils and the unfurling of the flag by Alistair Letham, a present day pupil. Mr D. H. Watson, present teacher called out the 1,000 names of the pupils who had passed through the school. Sprays were presented by Helen Holmes and Pixie Hart, to the earliest pupil present, Mrs Kennedy (nee Margaret Johnston) of Kirwee, and to the earliest teacher present, Mrs G. F. Robinson (nee E. E. White, 1912-14) of Upper Hutt. The oldest male pupil present, Tom Lemon Snr. of Ashburton, and the youngest pupil at the school, Graham Campion, planted a cedar as the first tree in a new shelter belt around the school.

The Chairman of the Jubilee Committee, Mr R. F. Letham, the Hon. J. McAlpine, M.P. and the Chairman of the Ashburton County Council, Mr E. T. Grigg spoke at the banquet, in the recently renovated and extended Lauriston Hall. A ball followed.

Since 1883, to the present day 1,384 pupils have passed through the school.

An additional 3 acres were bought and prepared by the school committee in 1958, extending the school grounds thus giving the children more playing area. The school qualified for a permanent staff of three teachers in 1955. In 1957 a new classroom with staff and cloak rooms attached was erected. A learners swimming pool was built in 1954 and the dressing sheds in 1957. (So there was no more swimming in the irrigation race and dressing behind a make-shift screen). A radiogram with extension speakers to the other rooms, and a film strip projector were purchased in 1957. Since the transfer of Forms 1 and 2 pupils in 1969 to Methven, Lauriston has reverted to a 2 teacher school. Weekly religious instruction commenced in 1957 from the Rakaia Parish clergy.

In 1976, the old senior schoolroom was moved to its present site at the Line Road-Barrhill Road on Mr and Mrs V. Digby's property. The old school was craftsman built, much of the timber in the building being black birch and kauri. Mr and Mrs Digby have converted it into a comfortable two storeyed home.

LAURISTON SCHOOL 1982

All rural schools reflect the community from which they spring. I'm sure Lauriston is no exception. One only needs to stroll through the grounds of the school to note that past Committees, parents and children have had a pride in their school. This is evident by the facilities these groups have provided and the forethought shown in the planning of the School Grounds. The tradition is still alive and well, and it is fitting that the Centennial Project encompasses both amenity and aesthetic considerations.

The school has benefited from its past but its greatest resource is always moving on. I'm referring to its people. Lauriston School is much smaller today than previously. This reflects what is happening in the farming scene which directly influences the school. But regardless of its size it will be measured by its people. At present we have two classrooms, two teachers and 40 pupils. Two buses collect from two water shed areas i.e., Barrhill and Sherwood, covering a total daily mileage of 86 km. The school contributes to Methven High School which is a Form 1-7. Therefore present day pupils leave after Standard 4.

In recent years the school has benefited from an enthusiastic Play Centre Group operating from the Lauriston Hall. This interest by parents in the beginning years of learning has meant an informed group of parents interested in their pupils through their primary school years, and parent support today is as strong as ever.

Machines and motor cars have changed the rural community. Our horizons can be much wider if we want them to be. Lauriston is gearing up to tackle the second century.

Graham Freear (Headmaster 1973-1982)



CELEBRATING PEACE, 1901
Unfurling the Flag



Mr. and Mrs. V. DIGBY'S RESTORED HOME — "THE OLD SCHOOL"
SHIFTED IN 1976

LAURISTON SCHOOL MINUTES

Lauriston 23 January 1882

A meeting of householders in the above district was held on 23 January, 1882 at the house of Mr James Dent, for the purpose of electing a school committee for the ensuing year. The following persons were duly elected to serve on the committee:—Messrs James, Wm. Hussey, Donald Ross, Henry Paul, James Dent, Robert Alexander, George Goldsmith and James A. Johnston. At a meeting of the above committee held afterwards the same evening, James Johnston was elected chairman for the ensuing year.

Proposed by Mr Dent and seconded by Mr Alexander and carried, that the chairman be requested to urge upon the Board of Education the necessity of pushing on the building of the school as soon as possible.

Proposed by Mr Hussey and seconded by Mr Alexander and carried, that this committee hold its meetings on the 4th Friday in each month at Mr James Dent's house at 7 p.m. Proposed by Mr Goldsmith and seconded by Mr J. Hussey that this meeting adjourn. — carried.

(signed) James A. Johnston, Chairman

1882—24 March: Proposed by Mr Geo. Goldsmith, seconded by Mr Dent, that the site offered by Mr Robert Alexander, of one acre, in the township of Lauriston be recommended to the Board of Education as a site for the new school — carried. With regard to the teacher's accommodation the committee agreed to board him until the school house was built.

1883: Lauriston School opened.

1883—27 July: School house built.

1883—21 September: Mr Goldsmith lost his seat through non-attendance.



LAURISTON SCHOOL 1893

Back Row : R. Pocock, G. Ross, A. Johnston, W. Drummond, R. Johnston, M. Gorman, R. Wright
Middle Row : Miss L. Dent, Miss A. Gorman (Pupil Teacher), M. Gorman, A. Drummond, S. Church,
M. Pocock, M. Maidens, M. Johnston, L. Wallace, Mr. J. W. Walker (Teacher)
Front Row : M. Gorman, N. Drummond, M. Ross, M. Dent, A. Maidens, A. Church, B. Johnston,
K. Drummond

1883—26 October: Night of entertainment at school to celebrate the opening.

1884—29 August: Permission granted to use school once a month for Church of England services.

1886—28 May: Concert and Ball held in schoolroom for prize fund — attendance at school, 25 pupils.

1889—16 September: Mr J. Pipe asked on behalf of Lauriston Cricket Club for the use of the school for election of officers.

1893—27 July: Mr J. Gorman proposed that the committee accept Mr J. Wason's invitation to school children to a treat at "Corwar" on Arbor Day, seconded by Mr J. Dent.

1902—23 July: Special meeting to celebrate Coronation of King Edward VII — a treat in the school grounds; also invited Marawiti School children to join in.

1902—28 April: Miss F. Mounsey (headmaster's sister, who later became Mrs R. Letham) was appointed sewing mistress at £6.00 per six months. **19 September:** Mr R. Mounsey (headmaster), wrote asking for 3 weeks' holiday on account of his marriage — granted.

1904—25 June: Chairman Mr Dent and teacher to bring before the children the matter of a penny subscription towards a new battleship N.Z. and that the list be left at Post Office; adults one shilling for same fund.



LAURISTON SCHOOL, 1913

Back Row : Miss White (Music Teacher), Sandy McNeill, Geo. Petrie, Reg Maidens, Roy McCormick, Reg Fechny, Leicester Maidens, Ian Moore, J. O'Sullivan, Tom O'Grady, Alex Goodwin, Con O' Sullivan, B. McTigue, Miss Brown, Teacher

Second Row : Maurice McTigue, Nell Drummond, Nell Goodwin, Win Goodwin, Ruby Smith, Nell McCormick, M. Callaghan, M. Callaghan (Tall Girl), Margaret Goodwin, Vina McPhail, Mona Goodwin, Julia O'Sullivan, Les Fechny

Third Row : Keith McCormick, Charlie McNeill, Ken Symes, Alex Drummond, Bill Callaghan, Dan Petrie

Front Row : Bert Crothers, Jack Drummond, Maude Maidens, Edith Maidens, Ivy McPhail, Natlie Ryan, Ida Petrie, Petrie, Chapman, Chapman, Mildred Cretney, Pat McNeill

1904—1 October: Bible class every Friday evening — granted.

1905—24 November: Picnic agreed to be held at Mr P. Drummond Homestead "Corwar". Children conveyed by traction engine and trailer to his place.

1906—25 May: Mr A. Maidens moved and Mr A. Ross seconded that the annual concert and ball for prize funds be held at or near the full moon in August.

1908—27 November: Pupils went to Wainoni Park for picnic.

1909—3 September: Proposed by Mr A. Drummond and seconded by Mr Lowe "That the chairman order 6 bottles of whisky and Mr McCormick appointed to look after it".

1910—18 March: Children permitted a holiday to go to Barrhill on occasion of the Governor's visit.

1911—19 October: All committee men to roll up at school to level tennis court.

1913—21 April: Miss Comer granted leave for 6 months.

1913—October: Agreed to send wireless telegram to her on the ship S.S. Maunganui.

1914—21 September: Roll 51—28 males and 23 females.

1915—26 April: Miss A. E. White was granted use of school for teaching music on Saturdays. Also the P.W.M.U. granted the use of school for bazaar.

1915—25 November: Mr W. J. Dickie M.P. invited to present the prizes.

1917—4 December: School picnic to Pudding Hill. Teachers to accompany the children in the motor lorry.



LAURISTON SCHOOL, 1917

Back Row : Peter Drummond, Alex Drummond, Marcus Curd, Dan Petrie, Patsy McNeill, Les Fechney, Bill McTigue, Reg Fechney, Con O'Sullivan, Bert Crothers, Geo. Petrie, Bill O'Callaghan, Maurice McTigue, Pat O'Sullivan

Second Row : Jean Letham, May Letham, Myrtle Goodwin, Edith Maidens, Clarice Maidens, Ruby Smith, Nell Goodwin, Julia O'Sullivan, Mona Goodwin, Maude Maidens, Lillian McPhail, Nell McCormick, Lena Letham, Mildred Cretney

Third Row : Katie Austin, Marjorie Lemon, Eileen Maidens, Eileen McNeill, Jean Petrie, Jessie McPhail, Natalie Ryan, Phyllis Letham, Pearl McNeill, Isabel Ward, Winnie Mitchell, Elsie Cretney, Lizzie Austin, Ida Petrie, Marion Letham, Edna Lemon

Front Row : Jerry O'Sullivan, Keith McCormick, Maurice Drummond, Hugh McNeill, Frank McNeill, Roy Drummond, Ray McPhail, Douglas Letham, Donald McCormick, Charlie Petrie, Bill Mitchell, Stephen Curd, Charlie McNeill, Alan Letham

1925—23 November: £11.8.4 cheque from Education Board for electric light installment.

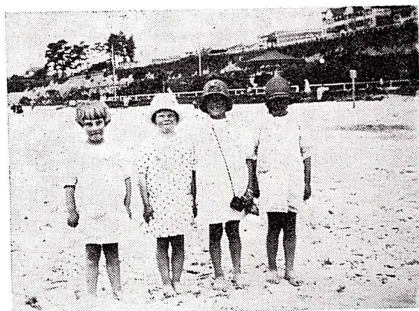
1925—7 December: Letters received from Tramway Board stating fare to New Brighton (3 tram cars) £4.2.10 for school picnic. Pier tearooms quoting 2/6 per head for dinner and tea—accepted.

1926—30 August: Corwar Sawmilling & Co Ltd account of £3.10.0 passed for payment.

1927—6 May: Agreed to hold euchre tournaments every alternate Friday—charge 1/6 gents and ladies a basket.

1929—26 November: Breaking up ceremony held on 20 December in conjunction with opening of new Lauriston Hall (instead of the Railway Goods Shed).

1932: Poor attendance on 20 April unable to form a school committee. A special householders meeting was held on **1 June** and C. A. Fyfe chairman, P. A. Goodwin, A. T. Maidens, W. D. Brunsten and J. Whearty were elected.



Bernice Maidens, Joyce Lemon, Grace Dalzell,
Isabel Cretney

Photo taken by Miss Bayliss at School Picnic,
Timaru, 1924



**MAYPOLE DANCE PERFORMED BY PUPILS
AT 50th JUBILEE, 1933**

1933—23 August: A. T. Maidens finally resigned — the longest serving committee man over the century—the reason—20 years between oldest and youngest child!

1934—7 September: Roll was 43.

1935—May: Pupils saluted flag and received an inscribed book as a memento King George V Jubilee—roll 34.

1935: Manual training began with private transport. (Transportation of children from Lauriston to Methven begun April 1939).

1936—7 August: 16 shrubs from Education Board were received for planting. Health camps began.



LAURISTON SCHOOL, 1929 SENIORS

Teacher : Mr. W. T. Church

Back Row : Huia Cork, Jack Letham, Bob Pluck, Eric Blain, Alan Lemon, Hilton Dalgety, Selwyn Letham, Hugh Farquhar

Third Row : Walter Lemon, Marjorie Pluck, Ruth Sandrey, Marion Sandrew, Marjory Cretney, Dorothy Maidens, Douglas Lemon

Second Row : Beatrice Daley, Doris Roud, Isabel Cretney, Doreen McNeill, Lydia Letham, Melva Dalgety, Joyce Lemon, Frances Sandrey, Bernice Maidens

Front Row : Fred Hampton, Bob Blain, Wilfred Smith, Terry Dalgety, Joffre Maidens, Charlie Blain, Kevin McNeill



LAURISTON SCHOOL, 1938

Mr. J. A. Mackie (Teacher)

Back Row : Patricia Daley, Elizabeth Dixon, Betty Hooper, Jessie Lemon, Lily Mooney, Joan Goodwin, Anne Fairey, Ngaire Gemmell

Middle Row : Allan Amos, Bill Goodwin, Bill McLennan, Arthur Dixon, Ken Pluck, Sefton Fyfe, Bruce Hayward

Front Row : Brian Daley, Clarence Wiely, Ela Sides, Ina Greenaway, Dawn Dalgety, Jean Sides, Ewan Smith, Ray Dalgety

1937—21 October: Mrs J. Mackie, headmaster's wife, was thanked for having school pupils in her home for radio lessons and making cocoa for pupils.

1937—18 November: Post Office Savings began at school.

1938—28 February: Roll 40—Barrhill School closed and consolidated with Lauriston. Shelter shed from Barrhill to be shifted to Lauriston. School photos of New Zealanders in 1938 Anzac Parade in Sydney presented to school by Mr R. Sides.

1940—4 April: Grant passed by Parliament for replacing headmaster's residence which was destroyed by fire on the night of 22/12/39.

1940—19 June: Young Peoples Club requested the use of school and piano for their meetings—granted.

1941—18 April: Apples issued to pupils. J. Jacobs erected fence in front of school house.

1941—29 July: Committee adjourned to school house for presentation of crystal rose bowl to Mr and Mrs C. A. Fyfe in appreciation of their services—roll 48.

1943—22 November: Education Board agreed to bus route extension via Urrall and River Roads.—roll 62.

1949—16 December: Mr J. A. Mackie resigned. Appreciation of his sixteen years service recorded 6/3/50.

1950—20 June: School bus proprietor Mr T. Stapleton granted a further 3 years contract on condition that new bus be provided—not granted! Mr R. Blain started his new school bus service 15/10/50.

1953—8 August: Maynard and Davidson tender for £500 accepted for basketball court asphaltting (first mentioned in 29/9/38 minutes). Big voluntary effort to cart shingle—roll 78—school accommodation stretched to limit 14/8/54.

1954—8 August: J. Irwin moved that committee apply for grant for learners pool. Pool opened on December 16, 1954.

1956: Third teacher appointed—taught in old shelter shed until new classroom built in 1957. Also the year when radiogram with extension speakers to other classrooms, (£120) and a film strip projector (£53) were purchased and a new septic tank toilet block built. Valerie Sloper (an ex-pupil) in N.Z. Olympic team, committee sent their congratulations to her.

1956—22 October: Children's annual bring and buy supporting United Nations Appeal for destitute children held. £14.2.0 raised—roll 67.

1957—15 April: First female on school committee, Mrs N. Lemon. Pupils visited Lyttelton and Airport. Contract accepted for bathing sheds at a cost £150.

1958: The 75th Anniversary of the school—purchased typewriter, duplicator and sewing machine.

1958—3 March: Working bee to sow down new playing area.



LAURISTON SCHOOL, 1944

Back Row : Rhona Scarth, Olive Hurst, Bill Sides, Ann Mounsey, Clarrie Hurst, Alf Hurst, Valerie Sloper

2nd Back : Philippa Maccan, Kevin Daley, Noelene Giles, Rosalind Cairns, Audrey Giles

2nd Front : Lorna Hurst, —, Clarissa McIntosh, Mavis Clemens, Roger Maccan, John Young, Rona Vaughan, E. Smith

Front Row : Noel McLaughlin, May Young, Jim and Arthur Cone



1946

Back Row : Noeline Boag, Alma Ashton, Gladys Giles, Jean Clinton, Lex Marshall, Graham Cairns, Stanley Goodwin, Tommy Stapleton, Gordon Clinton, Tommy Clemens

Middle Row : Noelene Giles, Kevin Daley, Gavin Marshall, Wally Ashworth, Peter Boag, Oliver Hurst

Front Row : Ruth Marshall, Lesley Boag, Rosalind Cairns, Judith Doak, Rona Sides

1958—10 June: J. Irwin (treasurer) thanked for all the work he had done towards new playground. Chairman (R. F. Letham) authorised to buy arizonicas and cedar trees around new grounds.

1958—9 December: Price of £327 accepted from Mr de Jong for 20 feet extension of swimming pool.

1959—4 August: Congratulations sent to Helen Mounsey on being selected as a Field Service Scholar to U.S.A.—roll 101.

1960—12 August: Miss R. Cairns of Barrhill, although not trained, agreed to fill the position of infant mistress.

1960—9 August: Headmaster told committee that standards 4, 5 and 6 had opportunity to visit Wellington—cost £4 per pupils.

1960—11 October: Mr D. Watson (assistant teacher) appointed acting headmaster, owing to ill health of Mr Pont.—school roll 103

1961—1 February: New tape recorder purchased. Committee congratulated Miss L. Sadler on her university honours.



LAURISTON, 1953

Back Row : Rob Mounsey, Ivan Blain, Keith Hurst, Neville Goodwin, Tony Blain, Murray Vaughan, Peter McLean, Noel McLean

Mary Irwin, Helen Mounsey, Pamela Bishop, Annette Doak, Alison Scarth, Valda Bishop, Muriel Sullivan

Elizabeth Douglas, Elizabeth Blain, Jocelyn Bishop, Elaine Vaughan, Nan Hart, B. Hurst, Pauline Curd, Linda Scarth

Terry Hart, R. Mulqueen, Robert McLean, Alister Goodwin

1961—9 October: Special prizes (merit) to be given, as well as books to all children. Standard 6 children each to receive a substantial book as farewell gift.

1962—5 March: W. McConnell moved and A. Dixon seconded that no move be made to acquire the old Railway house for accommodation of school staff.

1962—24 April: Special school committee meeting to establish Dental Unit at Lauriston School.

1963—29 April: At the biannual householders meeting R. F. Letham, school committee member for 19 years and chairman for 12 of them, was farewelled. Very generous district contributions to the School Baths Filtration Unit also recorded.



LAURISTON SCHOOL, 1955

Back Row : Noel McLean, Rodger Letham, Ivan Blain, Terry Hart, Winston Hampton, Alaister Goodwin

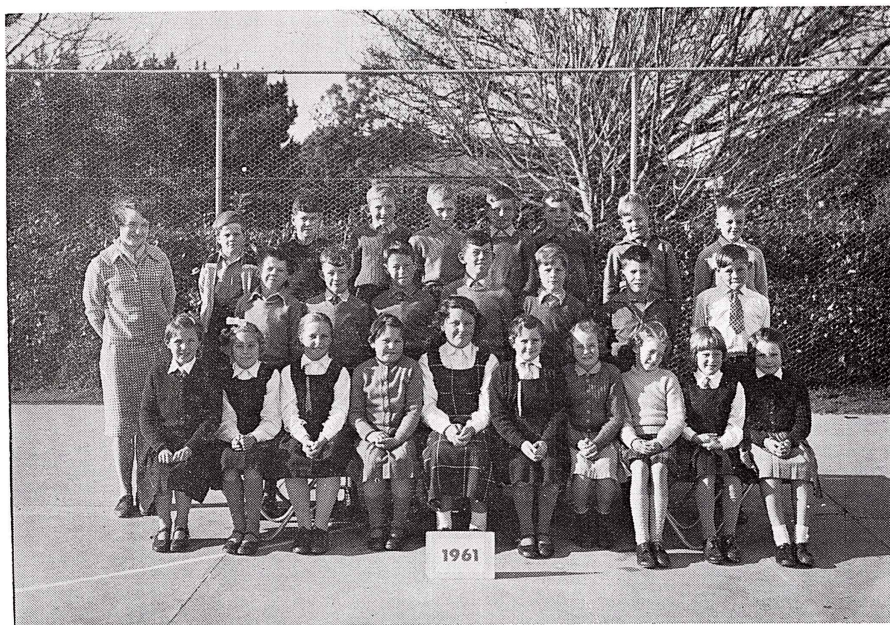
Fifth Row : Elaine Vaughan, Judith Sullivan, Jocelyn Bishop, Elizabeth Blain, Linda Scarth, Nan Hart

Fourth Row : Adrienne Blain, Pauline Curd, Marion Trezise, Valmai Rainey, Janet Letham, Helen Holmes, Pixie Hart, Annette Pont, Muriel Sullivan

Third Row : Colin Maw, Dan Hilgendorf, Charlie Pont, David Irwin, Bernard Carney

Second Row : Rob Mounsey, Sally de Beer, Caroline Bishop, Beverley Hurst, Jane Hart, Catherine Letham, Lyn Voice

Front Row : Fred Lewis, Bobbie Sullivan, Murray Gibbs, Alaister Letham, Dennis Gibbs



LAURISTON SCHOOL, 1961

Miss L. Sadler, Teacher

Back Row : —, Malcolm McConnell, Robert Maw, David Fyfe, John Perry, Richard Hooper, Mark Lemon

Middle Row : Stephen Dixon, Graham Campion, Edward Carney, Bruce Perry, —, Mark Perkinson, Murray Clemens

Front Row : Sandra Hooper, Jenifer Gibbs, Julia Irwin, Jenny McLachlan, —, Lynley Maw, Kathryn Tresize, Denise Ainge, Karen Reardon, Eleanor Lewis

1965—15 April: Eiki movie projector purchased £250. D. Campion and W. Lewis presented it to the school on behalf of the committee. Chairman recorded with regret the untimely death, by car accident of Mrs A. Pont, wife of former headmaster.

1966—7 March: School received 2nd place in Ashburton School Garden competition.

1966—9 June: Mrs W. McConnell to conduct children for singing at the music festival in Ashburton.

1966—5 December: Headmaster received letter from Prime Minister commending the children's poems.

1967—12 June Rock garden planned between Junior and Senior rooms. Mesdames Dorothy Streeter and Ann Dickie replaced curtains in library.

1967—10 July: 226 hares shot in hare drive for net profit of \$100.60. Conversion to decimal currency took place the day of this meeting.

1967—1 August: Mt Hutt Boys and Girls Agricultural Clubs disbanded.

1967—2 October: Well drilling for water at the school abandoned at 308 ft after 7 months work.

1967—4 December: School committee took over the affairs of the Dental Clinic.

1968—8 April: School gained 2nd place in the Ashburton County competitions for school environment.

1968—3 June: School roll 78.

1968—17 June: A special meeting of the school committee to meet representatives of the Education Board, to discuss the proposal that Lauriston School contribute to the proposed Methven Form 1-VI. Public meeting about this issue held in the Lauriston Hall evening **3 July 1968**. Education Board representatives present including Mr Murray, Chairman. Lengthy discussions on curriculum, teaching methods and bus routes followed. A postal ballot by householders in the district was held. 222 ballot papers issued, 153 were returned and the majority in favour of the proposal was 7. Because of the small majority no action was taken at the time.

1968—12 August: School roll 71.

1968—14 October: Purchase of a Banda duplicator made.

1968—22 October: Trouble over voting in the Postal Ballot. When the votes of people whose children attend schools other than Lauriston were excluded—the majority in favour of the proposal was only slightly reduced. Roll 74.

1969—10 March: School gained 2nd place in Ashburton County School Garden awards. School roll now 40.

1969—21 April: The transfer of Form 1 and 2 pupils to Methven had taken place at the beginning of the term. Retiring chairman, D. Campion said the school residence now had an efficient water supply.

1970—6 July: Very successful sponsored trek to Barrhill in aid of Sir Walter Nash Appeal. Committee's views sought on establishing a playcentre at Lauriston—members felt it would be beneficial.

1970—2 November: Mr Gair, Under Secretary of Education and Mr Colin McLachlan M.P. visited the school for 30 minutes. Mr Gair inspected the school, showing keen interest in the school activities.

1971—11 October: Donation of \$25 to Adventure Camp to be established at Arthurs Pass.

1972—28 March: Public meeting re Lauriston School bus service convened by P. Boag and R. J. Letham. Possibility of separate buses for primary and secondary children mooted. A petition was sent to the Education Board expressing strong dissatisfaction with the present service — the very early morning and late afternoon schedule.

1973—13 February: Letter from Education Board congratulating winning school garden award.

1974—1 June: Trees on the east and west side of school house to be removed and an iron fence along the east side to be erected.

1974—11 June: Double run on the Sherwood bus route, provided by P. Mechaelis.

1974—13 August: Visit to Christchurch Museum and Glass Factory, Mrs Butterick thanked for her help with choir for Ashburton Schools Music Festival.

1974—10 September: McFarlane Family thanked for donation of treadle sewing machine for school.

1974—21-25 October: Standards 3 and 4 trip to Westland.

1974—4 December: Mr and Mrs W. T. Church (former headmaster 1928-34) visited the school.

1974—18 November: Combined infant and playcentre visit to Mr Watson's farm and milk treatment station.

1974—29 November: Visit to Okains Bay Museum—donation sent to Mr M. Thacher.

1975—10 June: Trek held to raise money to buy trampoline—\$207.17 raised.



LAURISTON SCHOOL, 1967

Front Row : Leslie Maw, Murray Gordon, Anthony Hampton, Nicol Perry, Gary Le Comte, Alistair Clemens, Grant Anderson, Geoffrey Maw, Clayton Alderton, Robert Hampton, Brett Williams, Christopher Cormack, Ian Douglas, Lindsay Jackson, Tony Price

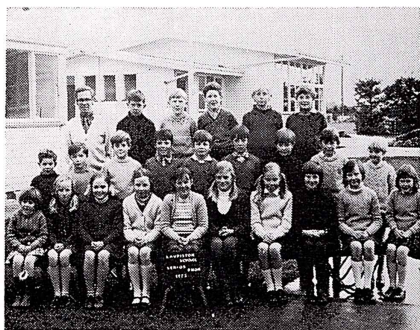
Second Row : Phillipa Smith, Nicola Hart, Judith Perry, Heather Gray, Kenton Le Comte, Stephen Sumner, Alastair Gibbs, Simon Hampton, Donald Turner, Bruce Leonard, James Dixon, Peter Smith, Rhys Alderton, Ian Maw, Alistair Stevens, Richard Hampton, Sharon Tilson, Sandra Goodwin, Tracy Laxton, Jillian Cormack

Third Row : Debra Turner, Joanne Smith, Julie Perry, Barbara Anderson, Shirley Butterick, Barbara Cormack, Mary Carney, Linda Fyfe, Heather Fyfe, Kay Turner, Sandra Jackson, Maryann Stevens, Joanne Hampton, Cynthia Hayward, Debra Neil, Jane Goodwin, Michelle Bishop, Tracy Neil

Fourth Row : Anne Streeter, Jan Neil, Judith Lemon, Susan Lemon, Valarie Gibbs, Margaret Dickie, Rhonda Turner, Denise Clemens, Josephine Dixon, Gail Turner, Helen Atkinson, Angela Le Compte, Beverley Gordon, Donalda Lemon, Elizabeth Maw, Susan Le Comte

Back Row : Wayne Hayward, Ross Smith, Donald Atkinson, Gordon Stevens, Shaun Perkinson, Matthew Perry, John Dickie, Kelwyn McEvedy, Peter Fyfe, David Butterick, Richard Campion, Allan Jackson, David Letham

Teachers : Miss Johnson, Miss Falconer, Mr. D. Cormack



**LAURISTON SCHOOL
SENIOR ROOM, 1972**

Back Row : Teacher Mr. Lance Weir, Dean McLaughlin, Michael Hayward, Tony Butterick, Kenton Le Comte, Richard Hampton

Middle Row: Michael Hurst, Stuart Leonard, Keith MacFarlane, Wayne Tilson, Alistair Quigley, Richard Tilson, Alistair Stevens, Robert Quigley, Paul MacFarlane

Front Row: Sandra Ross, Sylvia Boag, Raelene Hurst, Alison Leonard, Sharon Tilson, Sandra Goodwin, Heather Gray, Judith Perry, Bryony Gray, Julia Butterick



LAURISTON SCHOOL, 1972

Back Row : Bernard Daley, Christopher McLaughlin

Middle Row : Cherry Crozier (Teacher), Suzie McLaughlin, Belinda Griffiths, Stephanie Blain, Angela Hampton, Wendy Quigley, Fiona Macfarlane, Amanda Vaughan

Front Row(: Andrew Gray, Alan Butterick, Martin Letham, Craig Gibson, Stewart Gray, Campbell Thomson, Gregory Hart, Gary Leonard, Hamish Galletly

1975—1 August: School closed due to damage after gale.

1975—12 October: Fire in old school room—attended by Lauriston Fire Brigade.

1975—13 October: Governor General's visit to Methven — Lauriston pupils attended.

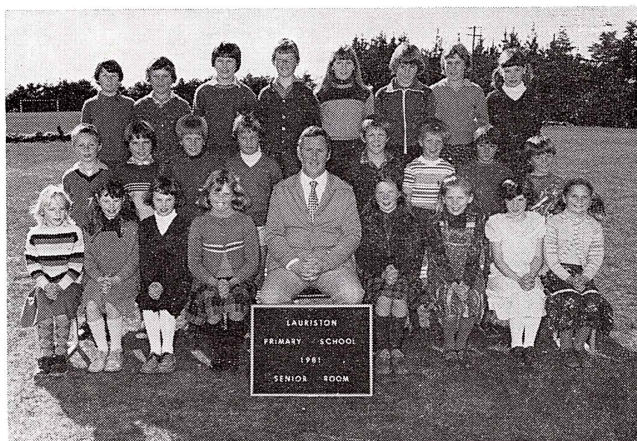
1975—28 November: School trip to Mt Somers.

1976—5 January: Building of new library discussed—parents circularised re raising additional funds—credit balance \$679.00.

1976—9 March: R. Griffiths moved that the committee tender for the removal of the old room, the present library and wood and coal shed for \$700.

1976—30 March: District public meeting to discuss the present library and old school. P. W. Boag, chairman summarising the position said the school committee was responsible for maintaining, repairing and painting the senior room and this would cost \$1000. To increase the size of the new library to 225 sq. ft (new library provided by Board 100 sq. ft only) a further \$2000 would be needed. It was agreed to demolish the old school, 28 for and 7 against.

1976—21 August: Special meeting to consider letter from V. Digby stating he would remove the old school and demolish the foundations, and make a donation to school committee. D. McFarlane moved, P. Boag seconded that Mr Digby's proposal be accepted—roll 59.



LAURISTON SCHOOL, SENIOR ROOM, 1981

Back Row.: Grant Goodwin, Hamish Vaughan, Terry Pannett, Mark Davis, Barbara Griffiths, Joanne Freear, Wendy Sides, Joanne Mechaelis
 Middle Row : Leslie Page, Aaron Duff, Paul Sides, Ian Letham, Simon Lemon, Darrell Wendelgest, Arran Thompson, Ashley Ross
 Front Row : Justine Maw, Lucille Curd, Phillippa Mechaelis, . Mai Davis, Graham Freear (Teacher), Alison Cairns, Jane Crozier, Kelly Lister, Rebecca Auld



LAURISTON SCHOOL, JUNIOR ROOM, 1981

Back Row : Arthur Page, Andrew Auld, Malcolm Cairns, Paul Wendelgest, Hamish Irwin, Timothy McLaughlin, Raymond Christey, Andrew Sides
 Middle Row : Symon Spicer, Kane Veltman, Hunter Curd, Perrine Freear (Teacher), Andrew Maw, James Lemon, Matthew Molloy
 Front Row : Charlotte Hilgendorf, Carol Page, Tracey Goodwin, Kate Sankey, Janine Logan, Amy Crozier

1976—14 September: Desks from old school sold for \$2 each.

1976—8 November: Old school removed to new site corner of Line Road and Lauriston-Barrhill Road, as the future home for Mr and Mrs V. Digby.

1977—8 February: Credit balance \$825.35. Mrs D. Ross began school secretarial duties.

1977—4 March: School closed for Queen's visit to Christchurch.

1977—15 April: New library and storage complex opened by Mr E. Ayers, chairman of the Canterbury Education Board.

1977—12 July: Primary bus run to Barrhill commenced—roll 55.

1977—6 September: School trip to Arthurs Pass.

1979—5 November: B. Wendelgelst presented plan for proposed new shelter to cost approx. \$1400 for material.

1979—23 November: "Tour of the Realm". Visits made to different types of farms in this area, D. McDonald's dairy farm, R. H. Lemon's sheep farm with demonstration of border-dyke irrigation, Roger Scott's (Mitcham) piggery. Lunch in Barrhill village. Visit to G. and C. Maw's cropping farm then finally to B. Wendelgelst's goat-raising property on the Lauriston-Barrhill Road, a mile from Lauriston.

1981—2 March: B. Wendelgelst reported cost of materials for proposed Centennial Shelter as at March '81 \$1792.00.

1981—14 September: School to close at noon 13-10-81 to allow children to see Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip in Ashburton Domain between 2.50 and 3.40 p.m. that day.

1981—28 November: A memorable visit to Okains Bay and museum and beach.

1981—14 December: Centennial project funds boosted, with a total of 5300 bales of hay carted, expected income \$1595.40. B. Crozier replaced B. Wendelgelst as treasurer.

1982—5 April: R. J. Letham and R. H. Lemon attended the recent meeting of the Mid Canterbury School Committee's Federation—it had been decided that a local association be reformed.

1982—3 May: Nomination of Rodger Letham to vacant position on the Board of Governors of the Methven High School.

1982—14 June: Mr Bebbington to commence building new Shelter early December.

1982—12 July: Tuckers quote of \$986.00 for main structural timbers be accepted.

1982—9 August: C. Maw reported the cost of poles and equipment to proceed with the construction of adventure play ground would be \$150 from Fletchers, Rakaia.

1982—13 September: Biannual trip to Erewhon to take place on the 18 and 19 October (with Lyndhurst). Approx. cost \$26.00 per child approved by committee—roll 40.

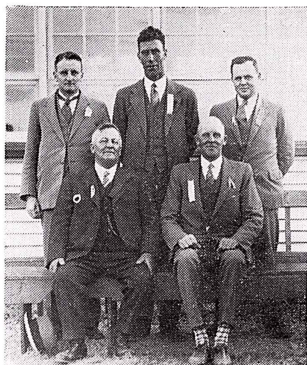


LAURISTON SCHOOL 50th ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE, 1933

Back Row : A. T. Maidens (Treasurer), Forrest Letham (Secretary), Roy McCormick, Archie McCormick,
Trevor Church (Teacher), Reg Maidens, W. W. Goodwin, S. G. Lemon

Middle Row : W. Brunsdon, C. A. Fyfe, Alex Goodwin, J. Whearty, Tom Greenaway, Bert Crothers,
Hugh McNeill, _____

Front Row : Vera Lemon, Eileen Maidens (Secretary), Edna Lemon, Mrs. G. Lilley, H. J. Crothers (Chairman),
Mona Goodwin, Lillian McPhail, Lena Letham, Violet Goodwin



**LAURISTON
SCHOOL COMMITTEE, 1933**

Back Row : W. Brunssen,
J. Whearty, A. Goodwin
A. T. Maidens, C. A. Fyfe
(Chairman)



LAURISTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE, 1958

Forrest Letham (Chairman), Selwyn Letham
(Secretary), D. H. Watson (Teacher), Ian
Hart, John Irwin (Treasurer), Mrs. Nancy
Lemon, A. Pont (Headteacher), B. Brown
(Teacher)



LAURISTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE, 1983

C. Maw, G. Freear (Headteacher), T. Curd,
B. Crozier (Treasurer), R. J. Letham
(Chairman), R. Lemon (Secretary)



**Mr. T. A. Lane presenting Winning School
Garden Award to Lauriston School, 1973**

CHAIRMEN

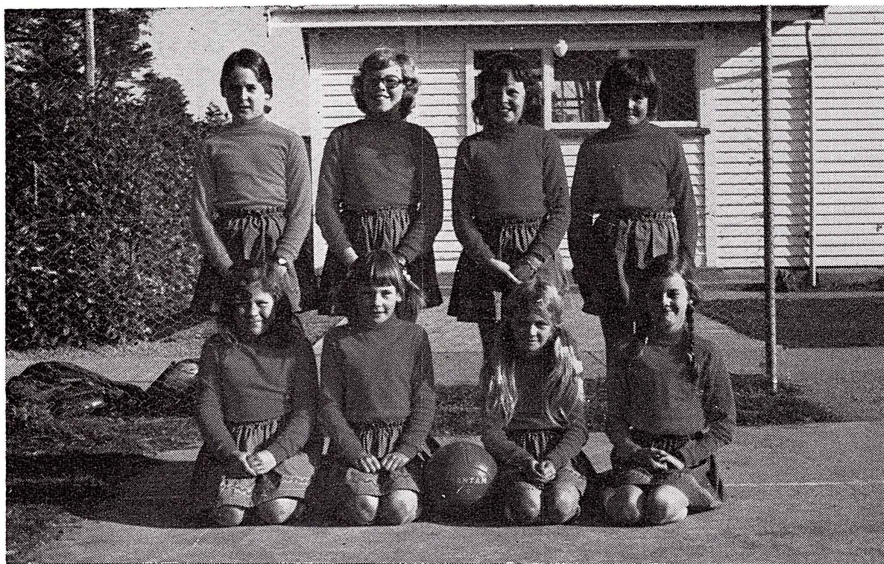
1882-1892 James A. Johnston, 1892-1896 Donald Ross, 1896-1902 J. Johnston, 1902-1904 G. Murdock, 1904-1906 W. Buchan, 1906-1909 Thomas Dent, 1909-1910 W. W. Goodwin, 1919-1914 Alex Drummond, 1914-1918 T. Mitchell, 1918-1919 W. Goodwin, 1919-1925 H. J. Crothers, 1925-1929 F. E. Amos, 1929-1931 A. T. Maidens, 1931-1932 T. R. Greenaway, 1932-1941 C. A. Fyfe, 1941-1942 T. R. Greenaway, 1942-1944 H. T. Crothers, 1944-1948 J. G. Marshall, 1948-1958 R. F. Letham, 1958-1961 J. Irwin, 1961-1963 R. F. Letham, 1963-1969 D. N. Champion, 1969-1971 A. J. Dixon, 1971-1973 J. Le Comte, 1973-1977 P. W. Boag, 1977-1979 T. A. Hart, 1979- R. J. Letham.

HEAD TEACHERS

1884-1885 W. Sloane, 1885-1886 T. Warnock, 1886-1888 J. Lowe, 1888-1892 W. J. Smith, 1892-1901 J. W. Walker, 1901-1904 R. Mounsey, 1904-1906 W. N. Taylor, 1906-1918 Miss E. R. Comer, 1918-1923 Miss E. D. Kilner, 1923-1926 W. J. Dalley, 1926-1928 Mrs Webb, 1928-1933 W. T. Church, 1933-1950 J. A. Mackie, 1950-1960 A. Pont, 1961-1964 R. Wood, 1965-1967 D. Cormack, 1968-1969 E. Allison, 1970-1973 L. Weir, 1974-1982 G. J. Freear, 1983 K. Peterson.

ASSISTANT TEACHERS

1891 Miss E. Johnston, 1893 Miss Gorman, 1912 Miss O'Callaghan, Miss White and Miss Brown, 1922-24 Miss Kenna and Miss Gates, Miss Gunn, 1924-1929 Miss Bayliss, 1929-1933 Miss Murray, 1933-1934 Miss Brundsen, 1935 Miss Hartnell, 1936-1937 Miss Jones and Miss Christie, 1939-1944 Miss Callender, 1944-1949 Miss Skinner, 1949 Miss Bascand, 1950 Miss Prebble, 1952 Miss Dalton, 1956 Mr G. Bisphan and S. M. Sandford, 1957-1961 Mr D. H. Watson, 1957-1960 Miss B. Brown, 1961-1962 Miss L. Sadler and Miss J. Grieve, 1963-1964 H. Thompson and Miss M. Green, 1965 Miss J. F. Pope and Miss J. S. Ayers, 1966-1967 Miss A. Johnson and Miss C. Falconer, 1968 Miss S. M. Walker and Miss P. Golden, 1969 A. Henry, 1970-72 Mrs C. Crozier, 1972-1974 Mrs E. Couper, 1975-1982 Mrs P. E. Freear, 1983 to present day Mrs M. Peterson.



LAURISTON SCHOOL NETBALL TEAM, 1976

Angela Hampton, Belinda Griffiths, Kim Wyllie, Wendy Quigley
Mandy King, Suzanne McLaughlin, Amanda Vaughan, Fiona McFarlane

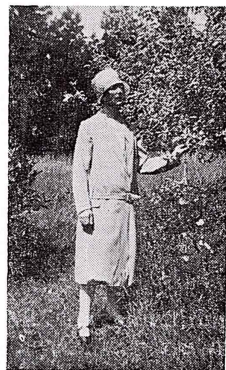
REMINISCENCES OF LAURISTON SCHOOL

E. R. BAYLISS

I was assistant at Lauriston School from 1925-1929. One of my clearest memories is of my first journey there. At that time, although cars were becoming more common, the usual mode of travel was by rail. This necessitated my taking the evening north express to Rakaia, where I transferred to the Methven Branch mixed train. It was quite dark by that time and the train seemed to chug on and on and on, stopping occasionally to stop and deliver goods. As time passed I got quite jittery. Surely we should have reached Lauriston before this—we seemed to have been hours on the way! On inquiring of another passenger I was told that we were some distance from my destination and she would tell me when we had arrived there. This helpful person was Miss Rudd of the Lyndhurst School.



Mr. and Mrs. W. J. DALLEY AND FAMILY, 1926
Head Teacher 1923-26



Mrs. WEBB
Headmistress
Lauriston School, 1928

Monday morning saw me presenting myself at the one-roomed school where Mr E. R. Dalley was head. The senior and junior classes were separated by a curtain which shut out sight but not sound. Later the committee provided a detached classroom for the Junior division, which, though it could not be called top-notch, was a decided improvement for the teachers.

Most of the children had to travel quite long distances to school and the usual form of conveyance was the school cart, the eldest or most responsible of the family being in charge. The horses and ponies had a special enclosure.

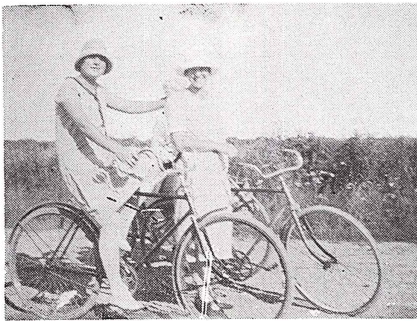
I well remember a lively meeting called to discuss the proposed consolidation of the Barrhill and Lauriston Schools. Feelings were high and most of the Barrhill people refused to entertain the idea.

Treats and outings for the schoolchildren were very few and far between. Matches of basketball and football were arranged occasionally with Lyndhurst.

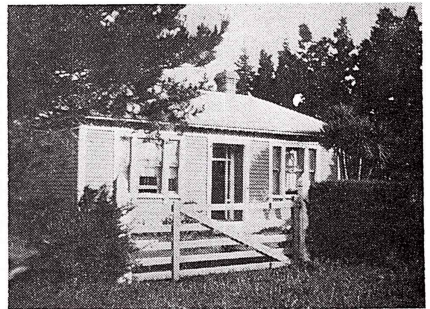
An annual picnic to Timaru or Sumner and a school concert, probably held in the railway goods shed were events in the lives of the children. The Methven A & P Show was eagerly looked forward to, and indeed it was a very pleasant outing, being held at that time at the Mount Harding racecourse. The Presbyterians had their own church, but the Anglicans, whose number was not very great, held their monthly service in the school. Dances and balls were held in farmers' sheds, care being taken to arrange a night when there was a full moon. That reminds me that electricity was brought to the district during the time I was at Lauriston.

On Mr Dalley's transfer to Fairton School, Mrs Webb was appointed head and she was followed by Mr Trevor Church, who was still head when I left.

An amusing happening comes to my remembrance on the occasion of a parliamentary election when Mr Dalley was returning officer and I was poll clerk. We were taking our duties very seriously when into the schoolroom came a stranger who ranged himself without a word against a wall. When, after a short time, he showed no signs of moving, Mr Dalley spoke to him severely,



Miss BAYLISS (Left)
Teacher 1925-29



LAURISTON'S FIRST SCHOOLHOUSE, 1926

telling him that loitering in the polling booth was against the regulations. Whereupon the man announced his identity. He was the constable from Methven and it was his duty to visit the polling booths to see that the election was being properly conducted. If he had told us that when he first came or if we had known him (he was in plain clothes), Mr Dalley would have been spared an embarrassing moment. There was no doubt about his integrity, was there?

I give a wry smile at times when I hear about the complaints of the present-day teachers. In my time at Lauriston I was able to go to Ashburton once a month only by the same roundabout route as I travelled first. Later on, I found that if I cycled there on Friday after school, it enabled me to have a night at home and a less tiring day on Saturday. Nevertheless, I enjoyed my period of service at Lauriston. The people were fine, and the children a pleasure to teach.

TREVOR CHURCH (Headmaster 1928-1934)

In 1928 Kathleen and I arrived in Lauriston with two babies. We were unpacking into our new home, when there was a knock on the door. A man in a leather apron, brown of face, sparkling of eye said "Mum would like you to come down for a cup of tea." Jack Jacobs it was, and so each with a carry cot, we had a cuppa with our new friends and new neighbours in Lauriston . . . and the warmth of that welcome was repeated over and over again. It was the friendliness of the people of Lauriston that has lingered longest in the memory. In such a climate of goodwill we all grew in stature and wisdom.

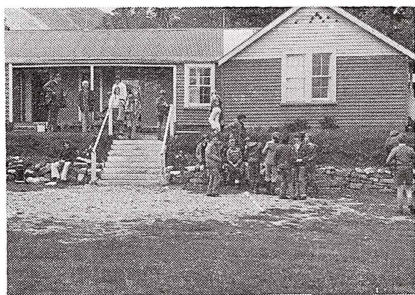
Outstanding memories of our days there — school and sport, with sport leading by a short head. School was a happy place, the children were a delight to teach. We had our ups and downs, ups mostly though! It is a shame there are no horse paddocks nowadays . . . I loved them! The new hall was being built and the tennis court was to be built by the experts, Colin Fyfe, Reg Maidens, Forrest Letham — and I kept in the background! I wonder if anybody remembers the colfix drums and the way the stuff was pumped on. Until the court was finished, tennis was played on private courts. What days they were! Afternoon teas were gastronomical delights — cream sponges!! We were young then and there was little left for the sparrows.

I wonder how many remember the tug-of-wars competitions held in the hall. Teams came from all around Mid Canterbury . . . and how the fellows stretched, strained and grunted in the process of trying to pull the opposition off the board! The concert put on by the locals, faces blackened, and the look of wonder on young faces trying to recognise Mums, Dads and neighbours among the singers. Hockey! What a team we had . . . chiefly playing in Ashburton, but there were trips to far away places to add enjoyment. I'll bet that a few grandmothers could show the young ones how to dribble and shoot goals. But it was the football and relay teams that Lauriston School excelled in . . . playing seven-a-side in bare feet, trying to convert tries . . . they did too . . . but I never found out where the kicker put his big toe when he kicked. I waited for the crunch or crack, but it never came! The Relay Teams! Have a look at the 1933 photo! We were not exactly pot hunters, but we did collect a few, didn't we?

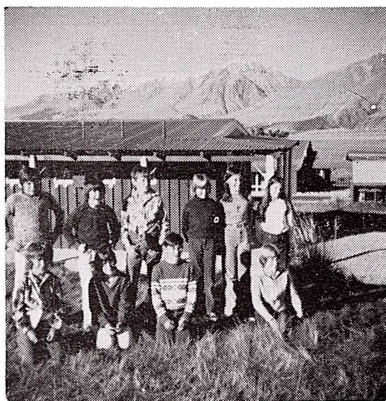
As I write, memories come flooding back, so Lauriston, thank you for being so good to us. Our stay among you was one of the highlights of our lives. May those who follow into the second century, have happy, enjoyable and prosperous days, too.

DOUG FYFE

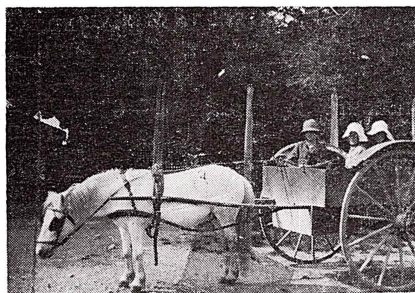
I count myself fortunate to have been brought up in the Lauriston district in the 1920s and 1930s. They were depression times but for me they were also very happy days. As I look back it seems that it was an almost ideal district socially with life very much radiating around organisations like the



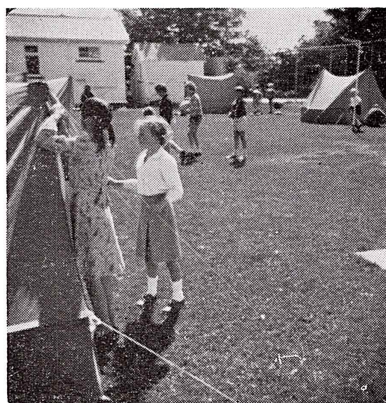
**SCHOOL TRIP TO EREWHON WITH
LYNDHURST SCHOOL, 1977**



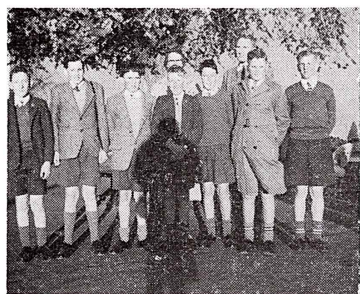
BI-ANNUAL TRIP TO EREWHON, 1980



MITCHELL CHILDREN OFF TO SCHOOL, 1926



**CAMPING OUT OVER NIGHT IN
SCHOOL GROUNDS, 1979**



**LAURISTON SCHOOL PUPILS AT
RAKAIA RAILWAY STATION OFF TO
WELLINGTON, 1960**

Colin Maw, Fred Lewis, David Irwin,
Charlie Pont, Terry Carney, Murray
Gibbs, T. Alderidge

Behind : Mrs. L. Blain, Mr. D. Watson
(Teacher)



**OLD SCHOOL JACKED UP FOR REMOVAL TO Mr. V.
DIGBY'S PROPERTY, 8/11/76**

school, church and the Women's Institute. People were starting to own motor-cars but were nothing like as mobile as they are today.

I can remember my first day at school—I think it was in 1927. My mother took me over in the middle of the morning. I started in the old shelter shed building. Children were at work with their chalk on the black-boards around the walls. I think on that first day I sat at a desk beside Wilfrid Smith.

Sports always loomed large. I remember playing for an under five stone rugby team in a seven-a-side tournament at Methven on a dullish afternoon. To us giants the sets of goal posts seemed almost as far distant from each other as Ashburton and Mount Hutt.

Not long afterwards I had to strip right down to my birthday suit to get into an under 6 stone 3lb team playing in a seven-a-side tournament on the show grounds at Ashburton.

Once I gave up the chance of shaking hands with the Governor-General at the time, Lord Bledisloe, to play for Lauriston school in a seven-a-side tournament at Rakaia. When my father told Lord Bledisloe of the reason for my absence he commented that it was the correct decision to make.

And there were those athletic sports days in Ashburton in that magnificent setting in the Domain and so splendidly organised that everything went off like sheer clockwork.

School concerts were also one of the highlights of those days. One of the first that I remember was in Mr Walter Goodwin's shearing shed. My younger brother, Max, had not started school then but he managed to get on to the stage with us for one of the vocal items.

To us youngsters an evening entertainment was always a very special occasion. I remember one in the school when a Mr Foston—the spelling of his name may be in error—brought along a magic lantern. I seem to remember that as he showed pictures of mining he talked about men “going down into the bowels of the earth”—a picturesque description that I have never forgotten.

We were fortunate that the school committee always seemed to organise excellent picnics to places as distant as Corsair Bay in Lyttelton Harbour, Sumner and Timaru. Once we were taken on a tour of one of the Lyttelton-Wellington ferry steamers. I remember my trip to one of these picnics was marred for a time by the fact that we had hardly left Lauriston in the old steam train when I got a smut in one of my eyes through looking out of the window of a carriage.

Mr Brunsdon, who was the proprietor of the store at the time, contributed a tin of boiled sweets for the festivities and in those days hand-outs of sweets and lolly scrambles were exciting events.

The Brunsdens incidentally were the owners of one of the first radios in the district—a cabinet model Majestic—and it was a great thrill to have ones birthday called over the radio in the children's session and to have to find a present at the end of a string or somewhere out in the garden.

But life was certainly not all fun and games—steady study at our lessons and tests and examinations were the order of the day. The climax of it all was a trip to Methven to sit the proficiency examination. I was always impressed by the fact that one of the older Lauriston pupils—quite a bit older than me—drove his father's car to Methven to sit the examination.

In retrospect we old Lauristonians owe a debt of gratitude to people like Mr Church and Mr Mackie and many others who gave us a solid background on which to set out on life's journey.

It is school jubilee time. I remember the 50th anniversary celebrations in 1933 when I was still at school. On that occasion the school children were given a paper bag with a pie and a sandwich in it when all the rest sat down to a banquet. We always teased our father about it holding him at least partly responsible and said that we hoped on the occasion of the next jubilee the children then attending Lauriston school would fare better.

For some former pupils of Lauriston school their old school has done more than provide them with a solid background of learning—it has also provided them with wives. But in that Lauriston has probably not been very different from other districts. Young women teachers coming into a district of farmers' sons are inevitably at risk.

Two Lauriston teachers, who taught in the junior department in succession, both married a farmer's son and the sons happened to be brothers. The teachers were Jean Skinner (1944-49) and Merle Bascand (1949) and they married respectively Max and Doug Fyfe, the sons of a former school committee chairman, Colin Fyfe.

An earlier teacher, Anne Callender, 1939-44 also married John Lochhead of Lavington, Barrhill.

MR J. A. MACKIE, HEAD TEACHER 1933-50

During my sixteen years stay at Lauriston I received wonderful support from the school committees headed by respective chairmen, C. A. Fyfe, T. R. Greenaway, H. T. Crothers, J. G. Marshall and R. F. Letham.

The old schoolhouse was destroyed by fire in December 1939, the official cause being a defective chimney. Two months later the old schoolroom narrowly escaped a similar fate. Ashes thrown by Education Board workmen, on top of bark in an old iron tank started a fire which was spreading along fence railings towards the building. Only a chance sighting of the flames by Mr Fred Anderson saved it. The wheels of officialdom moved very slowly, and in spite of a special trip to Wellington by Mr C. A. Fyfe the replacement

schoolhouse was not ready for occupation till October 1940. The generosity of Mr Arthur Gadd (Lyndhurst) enabled the schoolhouse family to ride out the intervening months in a mill hut equipped with a galley.

Bathing in the irrigation race was not without incident. Occasionally a child would miscalculate the strength of the current and be swept over the concrete drop. In the thirties the school picnic to Caroline Bay by train meant a long day with a comparatively short stay at Timaru. The few hours between the south and north bound express trains passed all too quickly.

Cricket matches in Alex Goodwin's paddock were most enjoyable. The home-baked afternoon teas provided by lady supporters were a feature much appreciated by local and visiting players.

RHONA THORPE (NEE SCARTH) 1943-49

I remember . . . enrolling after a term at Chertsey School and a tall, thin man coming smiling down the long narrow path from the big room — Mr Jack Mackie.

. . . skipping long the same path at the news that the second World War had ended.

. . . walking home with Ann Mounsey and Noel McLaughlin, from Urrall Station, and deliberately saying yeah for the first time, even though it was not acceptable to my Scottish parents' English.

. . . the first women teachers I recall as models — Miss Jean Skinner and Miss Merle Bascand.

. . . the girls' garden on the right of the entrance and my first experience of prunus blossom and mignonette.

. . . the smallness of the roll and the apparent regularity of the defeats of our sports teams, despite the strength of Valerie Sloper.

. . . being told of a rumour that one of the boys would like to propose to me, and I didn't know the meaning of the word!

. . . discussions and arguments about the virtues of the various denominations.

. . . going home from the break up in 1948 to find that the Scarths had a telephone!

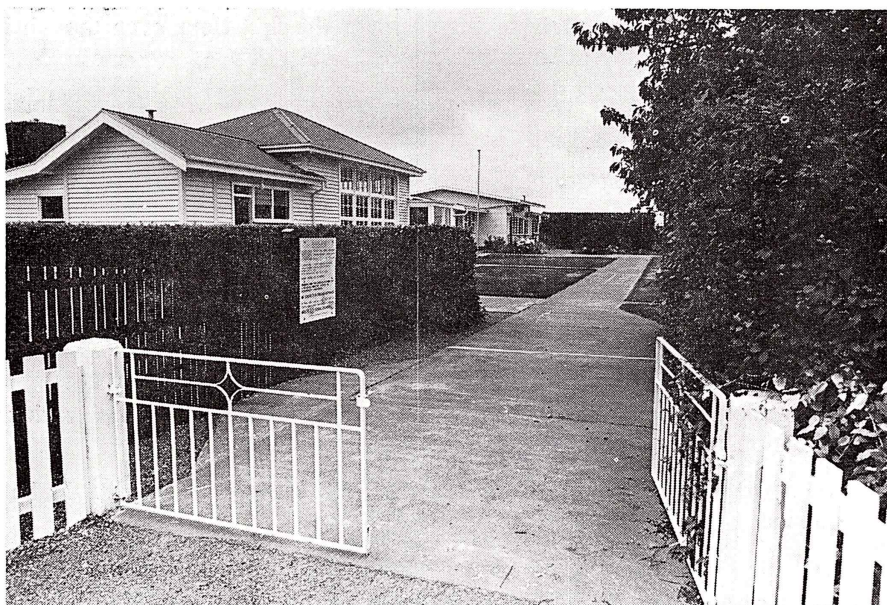
. . . the venturing from the secure familiar place into the world of stares from the unknown at the County Sports, at the Methven Manual Training Centre and finally at secondary school.

Helen Stockwell (nee Mounsey) 1946-1953
(American Field Service Scholarship, 1959-60)

When my scholarship to Carlisle, Pennsylvania, U.S.A. was awarded to me in 1959, the Lauriston district generously presented me with a camera at a farewell function held in the Lauriston Hall. (Over twenty years later my 35 mm Frankarette camera is providing me still with lovely photos.)

I can recall the occasion: this was the first of many public appearances that I was going to undertake. That year away was a wonderful experience. I lived with a family in a town the size of Timaru, and experiencing a new kind of life, and co-education, a major change from boarding at Timaru Girls' High School.

I have often had occasion to consider the worth of such experience and in my present profession, as a careers adviser, within Papanui High School co-educational environment, I meet students who need to be aware of certain issues which today have an added significance, issues such as the break in our formal examination system that an A.F.S. scholarship year will interrupt. The influences to me were widespread, not the least being altered plans for tertiary education. The benefits cannot be so readily measured. They were, I believe widespread too, but above all have helped develop in me a greater caring and understanding of others.



THE LAURISTON SCHOOL TODAY

BARRHILL SCHOOL

First day pupils, 1878

Annie Radford, Thomas Radford, Charlotte Lobb, Hypolite Iowen, Florence Babbage, Mary Babbage, John Ross, Eliza Simmons.

Below Standard 1

Mary Iowen, Alice Hurst, Mary Hurst, Thomas Lowe, Fred Babbage, Mary Lowe, Mary King, William Hurst, Jane King, Eliza Blackmore, Kate Lobb, Flora Simmons, Reg Babbage, Fred Simmons, May Iowen.

An amazing construction feat for 1877, the Barrhill school building of concrete structure, has walls 12 inches thick. It is 540 sq. ft in size, and has a porch attached. It has a large fireplace in the centre of the east wall and when the fire is going, the heat circulates in pipes behind the lining of the walls. Vents are set at intervals to distribute the heat.



BARRHILL SCHOOL, 1912

Back Row : Jimmy O'Connell, Dave Boyd, Ronald Opie (Teacher)

Standing : Bob Penney, Pat Clinton, George Bishop, Ada Brimicombe, Ethel Leaman, Ina Gadd,

Kate Penney, May Bishop, Bill Clinton, Molly Farquhar, Alice Farquhar, Blanche Nixon

Front Row : George Farquhar, Clyne Hurst, G. Nixon, Arthur Farquhar, Unknow, Rose Leaman, Ivy Leaman, Betty Hurst, Annie Penney

INSPECTED 5 AUGUST 1884

Teacher W. J. Dickie (not the W. J. Dickie M.P.)

Remarks of Inspector—

Since last examination there has been a change of teachers. The present master, who had been in charge only a few months when I examined, is evidently a trained and efficient teacher.

I have never known the school in a better state and I am quite sure that if the parents only second Mr Dickie's efforts by sending their children to school regularly, good progress will be made.

Due provision is made for the teaching of singing and drawing. Sewing is also taught, but the mistress, Mrs Dickie, receives no remuneration.

Considerate attention is paid to the teaching of composition—a very rare thing in our schools.

Something should be done to the fireplace before next winter. A proper grate is required. The room on the day of my visit was like a vault.

W. L. Edge (Inspector 5/8/1884)

BARRHILL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

EXTRACTS FROM MINUTES

1877—9 July: Moved by Mr W. McMillan and seconded by Mr D. Hurst and carried—that Mr C. S. Mackie be appointed chairman. The question of the site for the school was discussed and an offer from Mr J. C. Wason of a free grant of 2 acres in the Barrhill township as a site. Mr Wason's offer was accepted subject to the approval of the Board of Educations.

31 October: The plans were approved and accepted and the tender of £770 for both the school and schoolhouse went to Mr Sinclair.

1878—7 June: The School opened with 23 pupils.

1882: The Chairman was requested to give the parents and guardians of children aged 5 to 13, within the school district, warning that "unless they send their children regularly to school, after it is opened for teaching, the police would be instructed to bring them to justice".

1895: The chairman requested to ask Mr and Mrs Wason if they would take part in a concert.

1901—4 September: Hoisting the Flag—committee to provide afternoon tea—dance to follow in the evening—Mrs W. Sayers, teacher, to get toys to distribute among children. Chairman to ask Mr and Mrs A. McIlraith (Balrazie) for Miss McIlraith to hoist the flag.

1910—4 April: A meeting of members, J. Bishop (chairman), J. Brick, J. Connell, J. Clinton, decided to put the Governor-General's visit to the school on record, 23 March 1910.



BARRHILL SCHOOL CHILDREN IN THE RAKAIA RIVERBED, 1930

—, Hazel Hooper, Geo. Hayward, Margaret Campion, —, Sylvia Marsh
Grace Marsh (Middle), David Campion, Olive Campion
Jean Campion, Jean Holmes, Helen Stephens

1912—17 April: The committee arranged to present Mrs Sayers, retiring teacher, with a bible and the balance to Mr and Mrs Sayers, a purse of sovereigns.

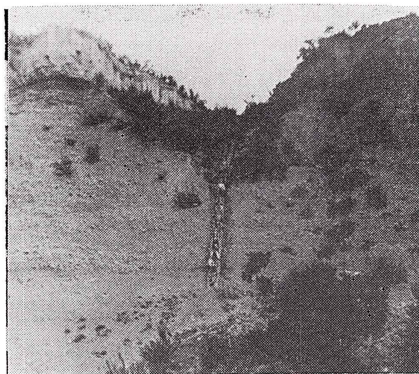
1918—12 November: On record the War against Germany was ended, 12 November 1918—by the signing of the armistice. Owing to the dread of the influenza plague which broke out about the above date all meetings were forbidden and the schools closed till 27 January.

1919: School reopened after being fumigated, washed and disinfected.

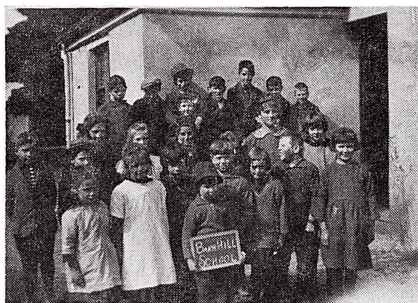
1919—11 August: The peace function in the school grounds was attended by 300 people.

1924—12 May: The school was packed to witness the turning on of the electric light by Mr J. Bishop, the oldest resident, and hear the new piano (£75). The committee, C. A. Campion (chairman), P. McCabe, A. Holmes, H. Dixon and E. Collison, arranged social. After supper came dancing to McDonald's Band, Rakaia.

1927—18 July: J. Bishop (chairman) announced dance to be held with Band; "the same to be conducted in a respectable manner and be stopped at 1.30 a.m. in future".



**A WOODEN LADDER DOWN INTO RAKAIA
RIVERBED AT BARRHILL, 1930**



BARRHILL SCHOOL PUPILS, 1926
S. Meldrum, W. Holmes, C. Bishop, H. Bishop,
—, —, H. Leaman, R. Payne
M. Fairey, A. Meldrum, J. Hayward, —,
W. Leaman, M. Payne
A. Bishop, R. Fairey, —, J. Holmes, S.
Leaman, B. Tizzard
Front : Two Meldrum Girls, L. Hurst (with
slate)

1930—8 February: Householders meeting decided Barrhill School children should join the Dental Clinic being opened in Rakaia. £4.7.2 of the required amount of £6 was collected at meeting.

1930—29 October: Miss Gemmell, library secretary. School committee agreed to let library be built on the school section.

1932—11 March: Chairman reported a meeting with the Education Board re recommendation from Board to the Minister of Education to close Barrhill School. Chairman O. E. Hooper, T. Maw and J. Doak interviewed Hon. Connelly (M.P.). He advised canvassing the district — 39 residents signed petition against. After another interview with the Board, their reply was 'the time is not opportune to take any action on instituting a comprehensive consolidation scheme, including the closing of the Barrhill School'.

1933—26 October: Barrhill's quota for the Dental Clinic £1.12.0. Each parent to be charged 3/-.

1933—7 December: Barrhill Women's Institute thanked for the donation to picnic and funds. Mr Daly, present teacher, was desired by committee, as permanent—he stayed 2 years.

1934—24 May: Social committee to carry on Card Tournaments throughout the winter "with full power".

1934—31 July: Education Board appointed a female teacher as sole teacher—committee objected to appointment of female and recommended to Board, Mr S. Drew.

1934—30 November: Agreed that at future meetings of the committees, the teacher be present. Tennis Club to have free use of the school for their social.

1935—12 December: Letter received from organiser of Health Camps—agreed to leave teacher to nominate any child he thought fit.

1937—12 May: The date of the Coronation. On this afternoon, the committee arranged an afternoon of sports for parents and children, followed by cards and dance in the evening.

1937—3 December: Last recorded meeting of committee—present were T. Maw, O. Hooper, V. Fairey and A. Holmes.

1938—7 March: Jean Rose Clinton the last pupil to register—pupils in all 442.

1938—March: The Barrhill School was closed and consolidated with Lauriston seven miles away.

CHAIRMEN

C. S. Mackie (6 years), W. McMillan (3), W. G. Sandys (2), J. C. Wason (2), J. Spooner (7), J. Blain (4), J. Bishop (17), A. Boyd (5), A. Penney (3), J. A. Collison (3), J. Fantham (2), C. A. Campion (2), J. Bishop (2), E. G. Hayward (2), A. Holmes (7).

TEACHERS, 1878-1938

Thomas Walke 1878-1879, Geo. Sylvester 1880-1882, W. J. Dickie 1883-1885, E. H. Clark 1886-1888, W. Ward 1891-1894, Mrs Sayers 1895-1911, R. Opie 1912-1914, Mrs F. A. McIlraith 1914-1922, Miss L. Frazer 1924-1927, Mrs B. Robinson 1928-1929, Miss M. T. Lonie 1930-1932, Mr A. Anderson 1933-34 Infant mistress, Miss Knibb, Mr S. Drew 1934-1937.

REMINISCENCES OF SCHOOL

ANDREW ANDERSON relieving teacher May 1934-September 1934

At this time Barrhill School had two teachers—Miss Mary Knibb, the assistant, took the primer children and Standards 1 and 2, while I was in charge of Standards 3, 4, 5 and 6. There was only one classroom, so we had to share it.

Living conditions for me were somewhat spartan. I batched in the schoolhouse—there was no water laid on, only an old hand pump in the back yard. I brought a bucket of water inside every night, for each morning during that cold winter, the pump was frozen solid. I cooked on a primus, slept on a camp bed, and used candles for lighting, as although the house was wired for electricity, there were no power points and the power had been disconnected.

The Rakaia storekeeper came once a week, with provisions. If I wanted anything extra, I rode my old bike down to Rakaia and back, after school. The local parents were wonderfully good to me — well did I appreciate the steam puddings and apple dumplings Mrs H. W. Dixon often sent me, complete with a bottle of cream.

Evenings were seldom dull, what with euchre evenings and dances in local halls or schools. Somebody always found room for me in a car. There was a strong and friendly social spirit in Barrhill in those days.

Even after 48 years I can still remember many of the children. There were the Dixons, Hughes, Maws, Hoopers, Hursts, Clemens, Stephens, to recall some. My nearest neighbours were that interesting old character "Tiny" Toon, and his wife. Many a tale of early Barrhill history, I heard from him.

One day an inspector, Mr S. A. Clark, came to the school. While perusing the school records, registers etc., he drew my attention to an entry in the Admission Register. I looked at it. There it was—Sydney Arthur Clark, the Inspector himself, starting his school life as a five-year-old. "I always like to look this up when I come to Barrhill", he said, smiling happily.

In the following years, I taught in many schools, but I shall always retain a special affection for that unique little village in its beautiful setting by the Rakaia River. Barrhill was just a small country school, but one with character, containing some of the finest children I have had the pleasure of teaching. Short though my stay was, it was a happy one.

GEORGE HAYWARD, PUPIL 1927-1935

To most of us our school days were the happiest days of our lives . . . I was one who attended the Barrhill School from the late 1920s to the mid 30s. My first teacher was Miss Robinson followed by Miss Lonie, Mr Anderson and Mr Drew.

Of the roll of 19, there were 5 pupils in my class. I can still remember the daily chanting of the 2 to 12 times tables and the lines of poetry that just had to be known by heart or else! As the infants and standards, one to six, were all taught in the same room, any diversion or unusual incident rarely escaped our attention. Some of us, depending where we sat, could almost recognise the outside arrivals by watching the reflection in the glass of the Anzac picture hanging above the fireplace.

Gardening with plot competition was also practised. Digging in the fallen leaves from the surrounding trees taught us garden hygiene and the value of compost. I think my love for trees originated from those days when we worked, lived and learnt among those beautiful oaks.

The mantelpiece was the resting place of Mr Anderson's Baxters Lung Preserver. He always amused us by conscientiously taking spoonfuls, when he suffered a cold!

When I think of swimming, I think of Miss Robinson, who in the summer had all of us trek down to the Rakaia River to attempt to teach us to swim. I have vivid recollections of changing into my costume amongst the lupins and climbing up and down the river bank on the wooden ladder.

Mr Drew's sporting tuition came in the tennis and rugby fields. I was very proud to be part of a seven-a-side rugby team made up of Rokeby and Barrhill boys. That year, 1935, the team won the Jubilee Cup. We practised on a paddock kindly lent by Mr T. Maw.

I can remember Mr L. White (Balrazie) arriving at the school with some surplus fruit to be distributed around the school. For those with a few pence to spend, sweets in the form of hokey-pokey and other varieties were available

from Mrs Brick's kitchen or Mrs E. Hurst's telephone bureau. We walked to school but as we grew older we acquired bicycles, and ponies were common.

Mr Drew was also very musical. For one break up occasion, he had us trained for a folk dancing display. I can distinctly remember as an innocent school boy singing "Billy Boy" to my appropriate partner. Other nostalgic reflections include the large salmon caught from the river, Mr W. Hurst's cocksfoot harvesting, the propellers for our bikes made from the sycamores, and the never to be forgotten pungent musky aroma of the silver poplars.

Ex pupils everywhere must have unforgettable memories of days spent in the little concrete school room among the trees at Barrhill.

(George's father, Ernest Hayward arrived at "Brackley" (a subdivision of the "Balrazie" estate) in 1919. George took over the farm in 1952, and he and his son Wayne, now farm it.)

LAURISTON SCHOOL PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATION

The inaugural meeting of the Lauriston P.T.A. took place on 18 November 1957, at the school. R. F. Letham chaired the meeting. Officers elected:—President, J. L. de Beer; Vice-President, F. Clemens; Secretary and Treasurer, Mrs J. K. Lochhead; Parents' representatives on committee, Mesdames T. Lemon and W. Tresize. The annual sub. was fixed at 5/-.

The aim of the movement is to foster good relationships between the home and school, by keeping parents informed about school affairs, and their children's education. Parent education is also an important role of the P.T.A. This is achieved by talks at meetings by prominent people in education, and by panel discussions involving local people, too.

In 1959, the first sports uniforms for the girls from Primer 1—Form 2, were made by the P.T.A. mothers. In 1982 blue skirts were made for the Standard 2-Standard 4 girls taking part in the Foothills Festival.

Over the years the P.T.A. has given books to the library, a machine to cover library books with plastic, donated plants for the school gardens, and musical instruments, made curtains and basketball bibs and purchased encyclopedias for pupils.

Up until 1963 the men folk were elected P.T.A. president, since then the ladies have taken over. P.T.A. Presidents:— 1959, F. Clemens; 1960, M. Fyfe; 1961-62, P. A. Dickie; 1963, J. B. McIntyre and P. A. Dickie; 1964, C. Perry; 1965, R. Hayward; 1966-68; A. Dickie, 1969; H. Stevens; 1970-71, D. Tilson; 1972-73, M. Butterick; 1974, L. Rose; 1975, J. Gray; 1976-77, J. Quigley; 1978-79, H. Sankey, 1980; A. Goodwin; 1981, J. Stewart; 1981-82, B. Lemon.

LAURISTON PLAYCENTRE

The first meeting of all local residents interested in forming a playcentre was held in the Lauriston Hall on July 30, 1970. The meeting was chaired by Anne McLaughlin. Officers elected at the meeting were: President, A. McLaughlin; Secretary, C. Gorman; Treasurer, Jim Faulkner; and the inaugural committee was: F. Macfarlane, H. Sankey, M. Weir, L. Blain, J. Hart, M. Daly, G. Griffiths, K. Galletly, J. Williams, M. Gibson, L. Rose, R. Boag, H. Stewart, B. Williamson, L. Coppard. At that meeting, J. Hart, F. McFarlane and M. Weir agreed to start their training as playcentre supervisors.

A grand variety evening to raise funds was held in the Lauriston Hall on 9 October, 1970. There were raffles, and housie, and entertainment was provided by Rhonda Turner, Alan Lock and Mickie Mato. There were stalls and a very popular decorated pavlova competition.

The playcentre was officially opened by Mr S. Letham in the second week of February, 1971. Councillors W. Hart and J. Irwin and representatives from the local C.W.I., Y.F.C. and Federated Farmers attended.

Children who attended the first session on 15 February, 1971 were:— Hamish Galletly, Gregory Hart, Fiona Macfarlane, Mary Gorman, Suzanne McLaughlin, Craig Gibson, Warren Ross, Simon Boag. In April 1981, Lauriston Playcentre's first decade was celebrated with a disco for the pre and early teens, and a ball. To this date (1982) 250 children have been enrolled.

Playcentre helps pre-schoolers to gain confidence in themselves, and to play well with other children. In doing this, they are learning. It also tries to help mothers to see the immense importance of their contribution to their child's early learning. Through taking full responsibility for their own playcentre, they become more actively involved in the community.

Mid Canterbury became a sub-association in 1979. Nancy Wendergelst was the President in 1980, and Wendy Irwin became President in 1981. During Wendy's presidency, Mid Canterbury has become an association in its own right.

Presidents: 1970-71, Anne McLaughlin; 1971-73, Helen Sankey; 1973-75, Alison Ryde; 1975, Dorothy Chambers; 1975-77, Mary Sides; 1977-78, Nancy Wendelgelst; 1978-79, Wendy Irwin; 1979-80, Margaret Curd; 1980-81, Jennifer Logan; 1981-82, Valerie Clemens; 1982- Cheryl McEvedy.

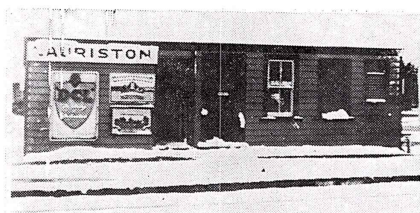
Supervisors: 1971, Jan Reid, Fran Macfarlane; 1972-73, Jan Hart; 1973-74, Fran Macfarlane, asst, Lois Rose; 1975, Lois Rose, Jan Hart; 1975-76, Ann Jennings; 1976, Ruth Logan; 1977, Ann McCloy; 1978, Joan Dolan; 1978-79, Bernadette Harkness; 1980-81, Mary Sides; 1982-, Laura Cairns.

THE SETTLEMENTS

THE METHVEN BRANCH RAILWAY LINE

For almost 100 years, from 1880, the 36 kilometres (22 miles) railway line from Rakaia, through Lauriston to Methven, helped this productive farmland to prosper. Its rolling acres of wheat, barley, oats and peas, and heavily stocked sheep and cattle farms, owe much to this railway line.

The Methven line was built by Passmore of Sherwood, for the engineering firm of Andersons, Christchurch. It was built under the provisions of the District Railway Act, 1877, by the Rakaia and Ashburton Forks Railway Co. Ltd., and operated for them by the Railways Dept., from 13 December, 1880. The Dept. took over the line from 1 April, 1885. The "first sod was turned in November 1878 by George Hart, of the Winchmore Run, and Chairman of the Rakaia-Ashburton Forks Railway Co. Other directors were George Gould, E. S. Coster and D. Gordon Holmes.



**LAURISTON RAILWAY STATION
UNDER SNOW, 1927**

RAKAIA RAILWAY ROSE GARDENS, 1928

"Once upon a time"

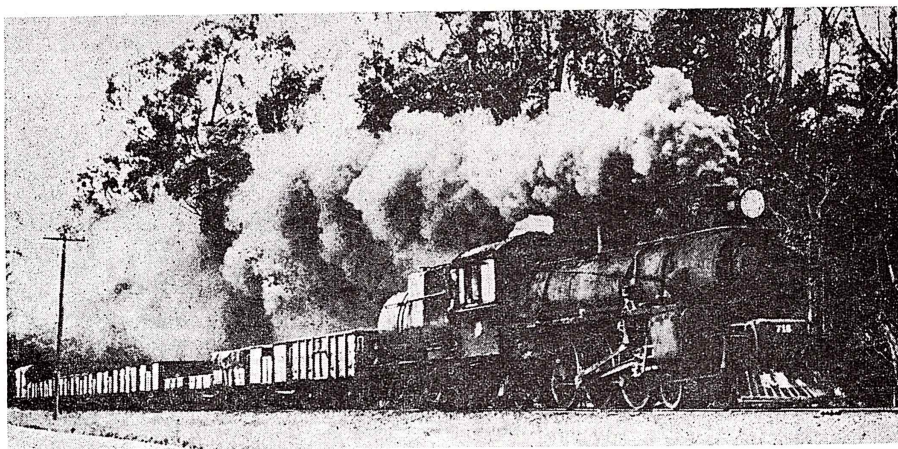


Rakaia had its first Gala Day when that "first sod was turned". The ceremonial opening of the work on the railway track was celebrated with bunting flying from every house and business premises. Headed by the Ashburton Brass Band, the school children marched in procession, 100 strong, with banners, evergreens and flowers. They lined the Rakaia Railway platform and greeted officials, who arrived in a special train—a Yankee K locomotive. There was a minor hitch in the ceremony when it was discovered that the cups had not been loaded on the special train for the luncheon. They finally arrived on an ordinary train at 2.30 p.m.

On February 24, 1880 the Rakaia-Methven line was officially opened. The Christchurch Press reported that the first train from Methven arrived at Rakaia at 6.50 a.m. and returned to Methven at 10.10 a.m. after the arrival of the express train from Christchurch. A good number of people availed themselves of an opportunity of a free trip to Methven and back, on the opening of the line.

The railways timetable from July 1881, shows that two mixed trains carrying both freight and passengers ran daily each way except Sunday between Rakaia and Methven. The train stopped at all stations if there were passengers to pick up or set down, and shunted when required. As was the fashion at the time, the two Yankee class locomotives were named "Stanley" and "Livingstone" after the African explorer, then in the news. By 1901 a goods shed and cattle yards were built at Lauriston. Locomotive watering tanks were necessary, too, because Lauriston was mid way between Rakaia and Methven.

Outward figures for the Methven line for 1890, showed that 2844 passenger tickets were issued, seven cattle and 7870 sheep and pigs carried, as well as 1999 tons of timber and 587 tons of other goods including chaff, wool



Ab 718 AND IT'S TRAIN NEAR LAURISTON, NOVEMBER, 1967

and lime. Inward figures were 7 cattle, 922 sheep and pigs, 272 tons of timber and 1165 tons other goods. At the end of 1900 until 1920, mixed trains left Rakaia daily except Friday and Sunday, and twice on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Over the next two decades, 1920 to 1940, dramatic increases in tonnage took place. The 1940s could be considered the heyday of the line. Private cars were still not widespread and competition from motor lorries had not reached a significant level. During the year ended 31 March 1949, Methven consigned 777 cattle, 75,632 sheep and pigs, 1.7 million super feet of timber and 10,130 tons of other goods. It received 649 cattle, 44,345 sheep and pigs, 170,000 super feet of timber and 26,641 tons of other goods, mostly lime. Passenger journeys totalled 734 dozen from 4770 in 1940. The trip from Rakaia to Methven took from 75 minutes to 90 minutes—the return journey took less time as it was down hill!

A steady decline in patronage showed that by 1950 one goods train with a car-van for passengers ran each way daily. The last passenger was

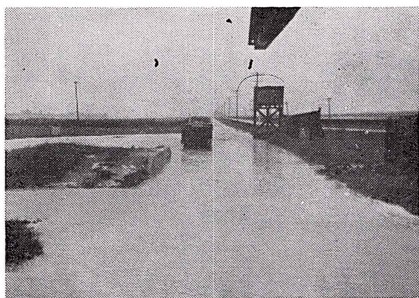
carried on 7 September 1958. Steam locomotives, including the popular "A6" class common from 1930s, were replaced by the "Dj" diesel-electric locomotive in the late 1960s. Stockyards at Lauriston were removed for sale by public tender in September 1967. Only 2 head of cattle railed to Methven in



THE LAST TRAIN ON 31st JULY, 1976

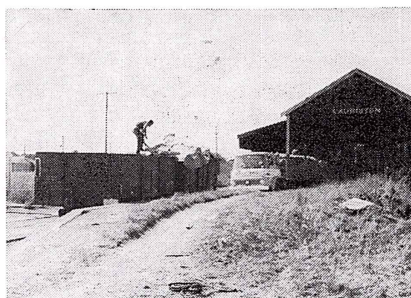
(Photograph by Barry Hamilton)

1968 along with 197 tons of timber and 7818 tons of other goods. Outward figures were 1 cow, 1004 sheep and pigs and 27,026 tons of other goods, of which over 21,000 tons was mixed grain. Each year the line became more uneconomic, until in 1969 the only trains were a shunting service on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. It finally closed on 31 July 1976.



**ONE OF THE MANY FLOODS AT LAURISTON
1944**

Note the Railway Water Tank



**WRIGHT BROS. LOADING GRAIN,
FEBRUARY, 1971**

LAURISTON POST OFFICE AND STORE

The first P.O. in the Lauriston district opened on 1 March, 1880. James Dent (whose farm adjoined the Lauriston Store), was appointed Postmaster. William Buchan followed on 1 May, 1880. Next came William Middleton, then John Rohan. On 20 January, 1903 a telephone office, combined with the P.O., permitted residents to send and receive telegrams. The hours 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., six days a week. The code call LRT. J. Rohan was telephonist as well as Postmaster. He was succeeded by John Maidens and on 1 October, 1905 came William McTigue—a bureau (telephone) was added at this time. This enabled customers to place and receive toll calls, in private. Edwin Syme



LAURISTON STORE, 1979

followed on 12 January, 1910, salary £26. In the P.O. records this is the first time that the storekeeper is mentioned. In April 1915, E. Syme sold his store to J. N. Steven. Salary £18 per annum. Fees were 3d for each outward ordinary toll call or telegram and 6d for urgent telegrams. First daily mail direct to Christchurch April 1916.

Charles Whelham of Methven bought the business on 1 May, 1918 and became Postmaster. His salary increased from £21 to £31 per annum—the additional £10 being split evenly between rental, the accommodation provided and the carriage of mails to and from the Railway Station a quarter of a mile away. The telephone was in a separate room but the postal work had its own counter in the middle of the store. Mr Whelham pointed out that the P.O. was illuminated by two acetylene lamps which were expensive to run. His salary became £45.

David Smith bought the business and became Postmaster on 1 January, 1920. At 11 a.m. on 5 January, 1921 the store and Post Office were totally destroyed by fire. Mrs Mary Jacobs (Blacksmith) became temporary Postmistress whilst the store was rebuilt. The office was reopened in the new store

on 12 May, 1921. William Brunsden succeeded Mr Smith, 1 August, 1922. Mail was despatched at 7.17 a.m. with an extra mail at 3.30 p.m. on two of these days. Mails were received at 7.20 p.m. daily plus on 2 days a week at 10.30 a.m. Salary £52.

In February 1925, the Health Dept. placed the Postmaster and his family in isolation because of an outbreak of poliomyelitis. The P.O. was isolated and was placed temporarily in G. Jesson's care who resided in a tent nearby.

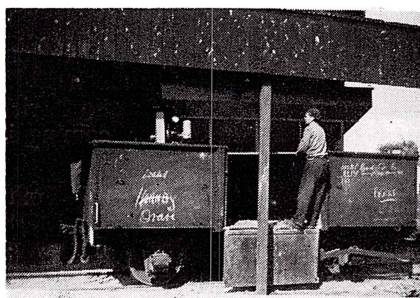
Work handled in 1931 showed that 1511 telegraph and toll calls compared with 2,073 the previous year. In 1937 Fred Anderson took over the business and became Postmaster. The Dept. of Labour insisted that the store close for statutory half holidays but the residents were unwilling to forgo their Saturday evening mail. The Labour Dept. granted concession provided the sorting of mail was not used as an excuse for after hours store trading.

Postal notes were placed on sale 4 October, 1938. A daily luncheon interval was instituted from 2 February, 1942. When F. Anderson was called for military service, 8 June, 1942, the householders decided that William Anderson, his brother, carry on the duties and Mr J. A. Mackie undertook the accounting work.

Harry and Ina Stevens of Ashburton took over on 3 August, 1942 — postal note sales were abolished at Lauriston P.O. In February 1947, the store and office commenced all-day closing on Saturdays.

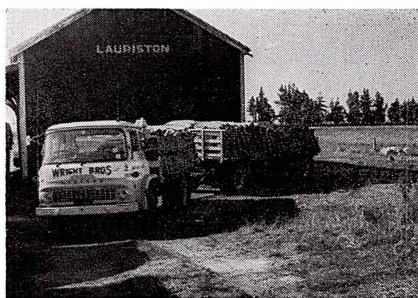
On 20 October, 1947 the Ashburton-Methven Rural Delivery extended to cover Lyndhurst, Lauriston and Mitcham. Post Offices at Lyndhurst and Lauriston were closed that day, but Mrs Stevens was retained as telephonist. There were only 12 people dependant on the Lauriston telephone service in 1951, as most of the residents were subscribers to the Ashburton Exchange.

On 22 October, 1960 Mr and Mrs W. V. Thiele of Christchurch bought the business. Mr Peter Taylor bought the store on 29 August, 1964. As the



**LOADING LIMESOWER ON RAIL TO WEST
COAST, 1956**

Made at Workshop



**LOADING GRAIN AT LAURISTON,
SUMMER OF 1972**

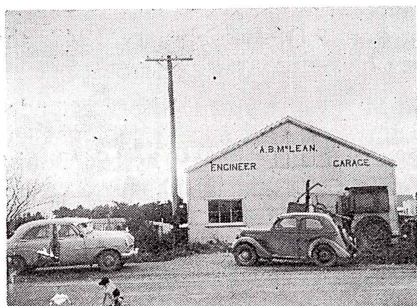
telegraph service handled less and less telegrams, the Chief Postmaster requested the office be closed permanently. This took effect from 24 May, 1968 when Mr and Mrs Lee were the owners.

Peter and Carol Mechaelis, from Christchurch acquired the store in 1974 and like their predecessors they had a delivery service. As well as running the store they ran part of the school bus service. Unfortunately because of the development of supermarkets the store became uneconomic and Peter and Carol reluctantly closed the doors in November, 1979. They continue to live there and now run an efficient school bus service, owning the three blue and white school buses.

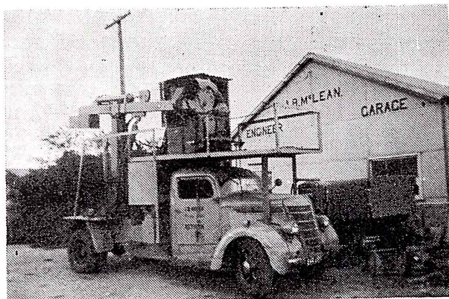
LAURISTON BLACKSMITH

The Blacksmith shop is situated in the village of Lauriston. It is on land that was bought from J. C. Wason, of Corwar, on 10 June, 1879. The Lauriston Post Office was occasionally conducted at the blacksmith, with parts of the original building still standing today.

The first blacksmith, George Goldsmith, 1883, Thomas Whitta 1884, James H. Dent 1891, A. J. Norrish 1903, W. McTigue 1905 (who found the



WORKSHOP, 1955



**McLEAN'S FIRST HYDRAULICLY OPERATED
TREE TOPPING MACHINE, 1957**
Made at Workshop

telephone very irritating, so promptly pulled it off the wall), George Maidens 1929, Jack Jacobs 1929, who was there for 13 years, J. M. McIntosh 1943, Tom Stapleton 1950, Archie McLean 1952. Tommy Gaylor, a Rakaia farrier, paid regular visits shoeing horses during these years. He ceased coming in 1960.

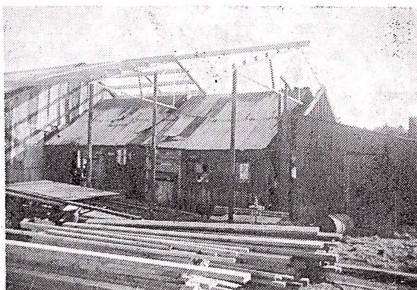
John Leonard worked for A. B. McLean from 1954 along with E. Smith and Oliver Hurst (Barrhill).

A new and larger workshop, garage and service station was built in 1955. McLean had 10 on the staff, including 2 office girls. They manufactured equipment that was sent to various parts of the South Island. The first hydraulically operated tree toppers were built at this workshop in 1957. Limesowers, stockcrates and allied equipment also were manufactured and

supplied to a large number of transport firms. The orders came from Takaka in the north and to Invercargill in the south. All steel goods were brought by rail to Lauriston. Likewise machines and equipment were sent out the same way. Coal for the forge was brought from Ashburton by Tom Stapleton, general carrier of Lauriston.



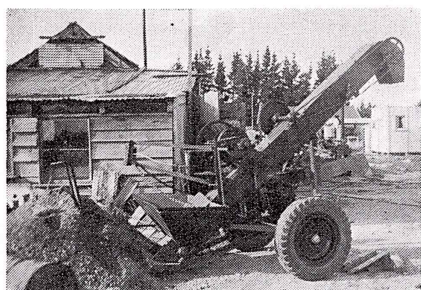
OLD BLACKSMITH SHOP AND ORIGINAL POST OFFICE



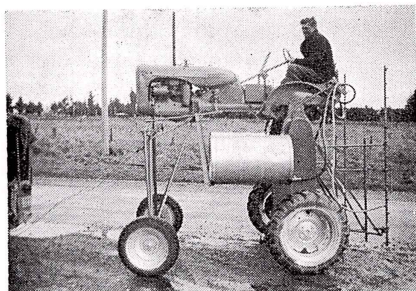
WORKSHOP UNDER CONSTRUCTION, 1960

The business expanded and another workshop was built in Ashburton. Mr McLean and his family moved there. John Leonard managed the Lauriston business, and took it over in 1962. John's grandfather, Mr Jack Reid, was a carpenter and wheelwright and came to Lyndhurst in 1890. He built houses at Springfield Estate and at Lyndhurst, his own costing £100 to build. He also built the Lyndhurst Hall in 1906 and worked at Andrew Macfarlane's smithy at Lyndhurst.

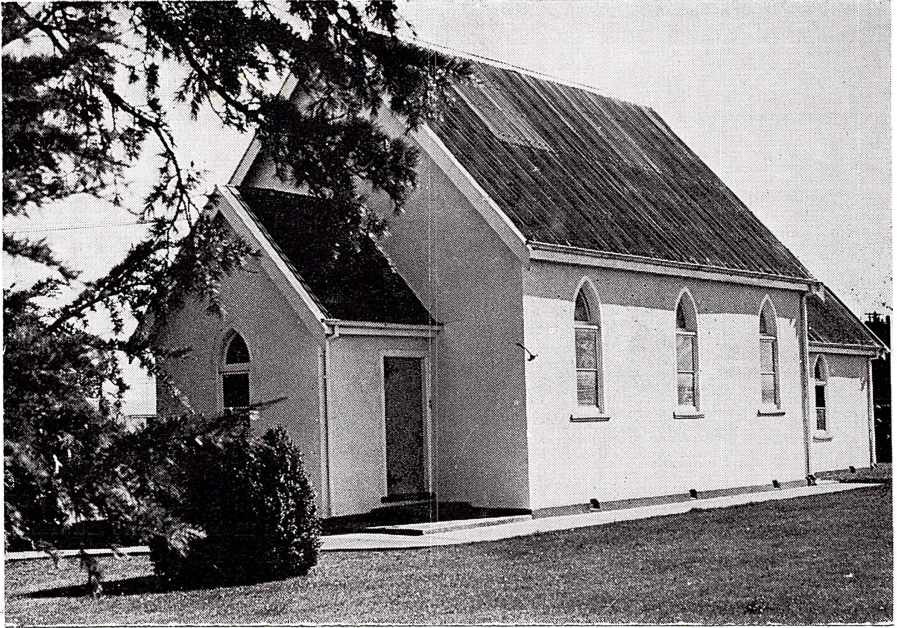
John Leonard's paternal grandfather was one of the early teamsters to work on Sherwood Station. His father, Alf Leonard, worked as an agricultural contractor and on Gadd's mill. He serviced and maintained his own (and others) auto headers of the time. He later managed the national mortgage grain store at Lyndhurst. John Leonard has been in the business for 25 years. He and his son Bruce, a qualified motor engineer, run the workshop today. Since the closure of the Lauriston Store, John and Bruce sell soft drinks, confections and cigarettes as well as hardware.



OLD BLACKSMITH, 1955 FERTILISER ELEVATOR
John Leonard's Hut on right



CONSTRUCTED AT LAURISTON WORKSHOP
1960



LAURISTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 1979

LAURISTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

No costly organ rolls its rounded notes
 Upon the stillness of the evening air,
 To gather up the essence of all thought,
 Within its chords to symbolise our prayer;
 But close beside the little painted church
 Where mountains brood and soft winds sigh and stir,
 A thrush pours out an ecstasy of praise,
 Among the branches of the tallest fir.
 No ancient tablets for remembrance sake
 Adorn these white, unornamented walls,
 But on the hearts of those who gather here
 A reverent hush of deep thanksgiving falls;
 For those who raised upon the windy plains,
 This place of worship, and our spirits fill
 With gratitude . . . We need no graven words
 To know they meet and worship with us still.

These verses were written by Essie Summers, a well known New Zealand novelist. Essie Summers is the wife of Rev. W. N. Flett, who was minister in Rakaia Parish from 1954-1957.

1981 marked 100 years of Christian witness in the Lauriston district—by 1881 fortnightly church services were being held in the Lauriston School. The first committee elected in March 1885, comprised James Johnston (Chairman-Treasurer), Samuel Alexander, Angus Murray, Donald Ross and Robert Waugh. James Johnston retained this position until 1901. In 1902 he purchased the one acre section next to Lauriston School for £17, and gave it to the committee as a church site. Mr Johnston then vested the property with the Presbyterian Church Property trustees.

In May, 1903, with Rev. P. J. Riddle presiding, a congregational meeting was held in the schoolroom, to consider the building of the church. At that meeting it was decided to build a Presbyterian Church, and a subscription list was drawn up, £120 being promised at that meeting. Members of the Church Building Committee were:—Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer: Andrew Letham. Other committee members were: W. Buchan (storekeeper at that time) T. L. Johnston (son of James Johnston who farmed at Tiverton), J. Moore, R. Mounsey (school master), Angus Murray and W. Sayers.

In November, 1903, plans drawn up by Mr Bird, Ashburton Architect, were accepted. Mr Rose made the successful tender of £359.6.6. The building was finished by May, 1904, with a credit balance of £3.1.5½, being left in the building account. The Lauriston Church was opened for public worship on Sunday, 26 May, 1904. The dedication service was performed by Rev. I. Tait, St. Paul's, Christchurch. The Revs. P. J. Riddle (parish minister), W. Grant (Leeston), G. B. Inglis (Ashburton), J. C. Patterson (Flemington), B. J. Westbrook (Springburn), W. Hall (Mayfield), L. White (Chertsey) and J. Parlane (home missionary) were present. The infant son of Mr and Mrs T. L. Johnston, Lamont Johnston, was baptised at this service.

The 25th anniversary of the first service in Lauriston was held on 4 May, 1906 in the school. It was an evening social with a charge of 1/6 for children, the profits going to the church funds.

In 1923, the vestry was added to the church. It was built by Mr E. J. Elliot for £217. This included a fireplace, the sink and bench on the west wall and the outside tank. The addition of the vestry was made possible by a bequest from Mrs Harriet Lemon in 1919, and the proceeds of a very successful novelty fair held in the Railway Goods Shed in 1921. A pig modelling contest for men was held at the fair—entrance fee was 6d and Mr Hickman was judge.

Church Finances—The church has had to struggle with the situations common to us all, world wars, financial hardships and droughts, but with faith it has always won through. In 1906, two years after the opening, the church showed a credit balance of £4.14.2, in 1954 £62.3.8 and in 1977 (dollars now) \$81.19.

From the 1918 report of the church's activities:—"After a meeting had been held at Rakaia, it was decided to purchase a motor car for the minister, so as to give him a better means of travelling about such a large charge". The car was delivered after a long delay. The Lauriston congregation sub-

scribed £58, the total cost being £238. In 1925, Lauriston raised £65.5.0 towards the purchase of another car for the minister. Mrs S. J. Letham can remember the curtains flying, as Rev. A. S. Morrison drove by in his Model T!

Many subscriptions were collected by "passing the hat around" at annual meetings in the early 1900s. In 1923; "these are hard times of general financial difficulty", and the church showed a debit balance which continued until 1927. In 1930 Mr and Mrs W. W. Goodwin left a sum of money known as the Goodwin Endowment, which still yields interest for church funds in 1982. In 1979 Lauriston contributed \$3600 to parish funds, and since 1980, the finances of the Lauriston Church have been included with the Rakaia parish as a whole.

CHURCH PROPERTY AND FURNITURE

In 1912, pine trees were planted round the boundaries and two cedars along the front fence—the 1975 gale managed to fell one of these giants. The shrubs, still there today—laurustinus, strawberry and vanilla trees were given by Mrs Lemon Sr. in 1915. The laurel hedges across the back and front of the church grounds were also planted in 1915. Minutes of 1912 record "The church grounds were let for grazing on condition that the paths were kept clean". In 1927 the half acre of land between the back laurel hedge and the roading leading into the school ground was leased to the school committee for additional playground, and this has continued up to the present day.

In 1954, at the 50th Jubilee celebrations, a *Lawsoniana lutea* tree was planted by Mr J. G. Lilley (a former senior elder, church secretary, and the first to be married in the church) and Master Alistair Letham (great-grandson of Mr Andrew Letham). The lawsonionas along the church-school boundary were planted by G. W. Hayward and G. W. Scarth in 1961. At the 75th anniversary celebrations in 1979, R. G. Cairns with the assistance of the Sunday School children planted a *cedrus atlantica glauca* donated by G. W. Hayward.

The pulpit bible and the hat pegs in the porch and vestry were given by Andrew Letham in 1904. The communion table was given by Mr and Mrs J. G. Marshall (Balrazie) in 1946. The communion chairs were donated by the P.W.M.U. and R. F. Letham, also in 1946. In 1953 Mrs Roland Letham gave the font.

Pulpit light—Mr and Mrs E. G. Hayward; Tablecloth in vestry—Mr and Mrs R. E. Cairns; Vestry furniture—P.W.M.U. ladies; Organ in vestry, Mrs S. J. Letham; Good News Bibles, Lauriston A.P.W. and Mr and Mrs C. R. Stewart; Roll of Honour World War 2, Mr and Mrs C. A. Fyfe and Mr and Mrs S. G. Lemon.

In 1975, rough casting of the exterior of the church, first discussed in 1957, was done.

The 75th Anniversary of the building of Lauriston Church, was celebrated on Sunday March 25, 1979. An 11 a.m. service of worship, communion and

thanksgiving was taken by Rev. Winston Marshall (youngest son of Mr and Mrs J. G. Marshall) and Rev. J. A. L. Carter, minister in the parish from 1960-1964. After the service, a buffet lunch prepared by the ladies of the church, was held in the Lauriston Hall. This was followed by photographs and a roll call, cutting of the anniversary cake (baked by Mrs D. G. Walther) and afternoon tea. 80 people signed the visitors book that day including Mrs Isabella Johnson, aged 95, the youngest daughter of James Johnstone (note the difference in spelling between her married and single name) and her daughter, Miss Isabel Johnson. Apologies were received from 3 former ministers, Rev. E. B. Stevenson, Otaki, Rev. and Mrs W. N. Flett, Napier, and Rev. and Mrs J. G. Archibald, Auckland. (Rev. E. B. Stevenson died in 1982).

LAURISTON SUNDAY SCHOOL

At first, Sabbath School as it was then called, was held in the school room—at a different time from the church services. Sunday School reports have been recorded in the minute books of Lauriston Church since it began. In 1913 it won the “Sabbath School Banner” and 5 children gained passes in the Assembly Examinations in 1917. The roll through the years has averaged 20-30, but in the 1950s it rose to 50-60 pupils. In 1982, it was 15-20.

The “Break of Day” was a popular Sunday School booklet for many years, and the catechism was taught until 1968, when the change-over to the New Life Curriculum was made and the children are now using Scripture Union material. In 1925 there was no Sunday School due to a polio epidemic, as was the case in 1948.

Throughout the years there have been Sunday School picnics, concerts, prize givings, and end of year Christmas parties. A recent memorable Christmas party was held at the home of Mr and Mrs C. R. Stewart at “Brentwood” (the original “Tiptree” of James Johnstone). Past pupils at our School Centennial celebrations will have happy memories of Sunday School in the Lauriston School, of teachers, lessons and songs such as “Hear the Pennies Dropping” sung, as the little black collection tin was passed round. A Bible Class began around 1911, with Mr E. Norrish, and Misses Kilner and Gates, as leaders. The Bible Class appears to have ceased in 1940.

In 1944, Sunday school at Barrhill began, under Mrs D. E. C. Hall. The Anglican syllabus, using “The Wicket Gate” was followed, but children of all denominations were welcome. Graham Cairns remembers walking down to Barrhill, with his sisters, for Sunday School at 2.30 p.m. (Mr and Mrs Hall worked at “Balrazie” where Mr Hall was the shepherd.) The classes were held in the church itself, senior pupils sitting exams, from Mrs Hall’s home. Her pupils took part in a memorable Christmas play in the Anglican Church in Rakaia in 1945. Graham remembers it was his job to work the wire which pulled the Christmas star across the stage.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY UNION (P.W.M.U.);
BECAME THE ASSOCIATION OF PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN (A.P.W.)
IN 1964

The early records of the P.W.M.U., which began in 1905, have unfortunately been lost. A P.W.M.U. report is included in the minutes of a congregational meeting of 1911 and a 1913 meeting records that a sewing machine was purchased, which was put to good use in the first world war. Mesdames J. G. Lilley and S. G. Lemon, were very faithful members. Mrs Lilley travelled by gig, with her youngest child in a box on the floor.

In 1915 the P.W.M.U. held a bazaar which raised £67 and its members presented and erected the Roll of Honour which still hangs in the church today. (In 1982 the chain from which it had hung for 63 years, collapsed, and was replaced). In 1918 there were 16 members, and in 1978, 15. The average attendance at the monthly meetings from March until September in 1982 has been 8. In 1919 the P.W.M.U. bought new hymn books, and it was to the fore in the church bazaar in the thirties, which raised money to put electricity in the church, line the pulpit and organ with blue velvet, and put down the blue carpet (cost £29) which is still there. Since the 1950s the main fund raising effort has been the annual garden party held at the home of one member, usually in October. In recent years it has been a mini fair, held in the church grounds, which has proved popular. In 1982, it was a "Spring Morning Fete" held on 2nd October.

Throughout the years women from both Barrhill and Lauriston have enjoyed the fellowship of these meetings, still mostly held in the vestry of the church. As the years move on, members from the farming fraternity have departed, and the urban drift has likewise affected the township. However despite this, Lauriston Church has continued as a spiritual centre for the district, and its members as faithful witnesses for Christ.

LIST OF OFFICE BEARERS

Chairmen: James Johnston 1885-1902, Andrew Letham 1902-1906, Angus Murray 1906-1913. Thereafter, the minister chaired the meetings.

Secretaries: Messrs A. Letham 1902-1910, I. Dent 1905-1907, J. Moore Jnr 1907-1917, J. G. Lilley 1917-1935, C. A. Fyfe 1935-1951, G. W. Hayward 1952-1970. R. G. Cairns 1970-1980. Thereafter secretaries discontinued.

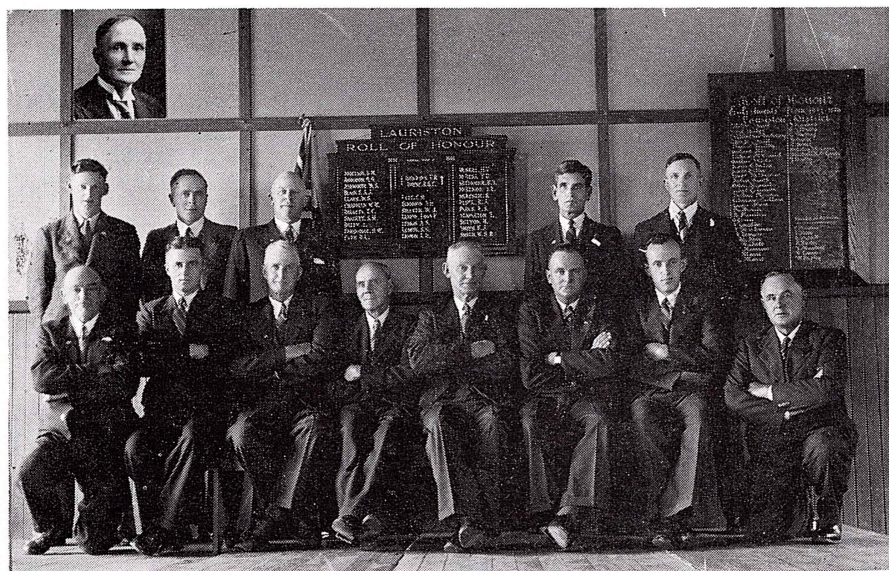
Sunday School Superintendents: Mr A. Murray 1906-1917, Miss McCormick 1917-1920, Miss McPhail 1920-1921, Miss Gunn 1921-1923, Mr J. G. Lilley 1923-1930, Mr D. B. Smith 1930-1935, Mr J. A. Mackie 1935-1950, Mr R. E. Cairns 1950-1956, Mr G. McRobb 1956-1959, Mrs W. Tresize 1960, Messrs G. McRobb and H. G. Douglas 1961, Mr H. G. Douglas 1962-1971, Mr R. G. Cairns 1971-1981, Mrs R. J. Letham 1982-.

Elders: Messrs J. G. Lilley, J. G. Marshall, R. E. Cairns, R. F. Letham, C. A. Fyfe, T. Monahan, G. W. Scarth, S. J. Letham, R. G. Letham, G. W. Hayward, C. R. Stewart, R. J. Letham, Mrs P. E. Mechaelis.

P.W.M.U. Presidents (Records available from 1945 onwards): Mrs S. E. Hayward 1945-1947, Mrs G. Reid 1948-1953, Mrs E. Flett 1954-1957, Mrs J. Fyfe 1958-1959, Mrs E. Chappell 1960-1961, Mrs E. L. Letham 1962-1965 (President during change-over to A.P.W.), Mrs I. M. Letham 1966-1967, Mrs J. S. Letham 1968-1970, Mrs R. Hayward 1971-1973, Mrs M. J. Letham 1974-1977, Mrs L. A. Cairns 1978-.

LAURISTON SOLDIERS' MEMORIAL HALL

The Lauriston Hall Society was deemed as having come into existence on the 13 June, 1929. So stated a letter from F. W. Watt, Public Accountant, Ashburton. Previous to this several meetings were held in the school room and Mr Brunsdens's shop. Officers elected were: Chairman, H. J. Crothers; Vice-Chairman, S. G. Lemon; Secretary, H. T. Crothers; Treasurer, A. T.



Back Row : T. H. Lemon, G. W. Scarth, C. A. Fyfe (Chairman), T. Stapleton, J. B. Hillyer
Front Row : T. R. Greenaway, J. F. McIntosh, J. McQuilken, W. W. Goodwin, S. G. Lemon,
H. T. Crothers, W. J. A. Goodwin, P. A. Goodwin

Inset : H. J. Crothers Absent : A. T. Maidens

Maidens; Committee, W. Letham, P. McNeill, A. McCormick, W. Brunsden, G. Letham, W. Goodwin, A. Rushton.

At a public meeting on 6 August, 1929 the Hall Society authorised the committee to erect a hall in Coleridge Street, Lauriston. The successful tender, dated 28 September, was £637.10.0 to A. C. Rowlands and the completed contract was £650.0.0. The opening of the hall was on 20 December, 1929, at 3 p.m. and all subscribers were sent invitations for the afternoon ceremony. Charges for dance 3/- and 1/- for subscribers and 7/- and 2/6 for non-subscribers, and a band from town was engaged. The Hall was decorated with streamers, and 20 gallons of beer, 1 case of whisky, and 6 jars of lemonade purchased.

Charges set for hall use: £1.0.0 up till 10 o'clock, 5/- per hour till 2 a.m., piano 5/- extra. The Tennis Club were given permission to put down 2 courts on Hall land at nominal rental, on 19 July, 1930. The first Annual General meeting in October, 1930, showed excess of assets over liabilities of £605.0.0. 27 July 1931: Piano purchased cost £8.0.0. At the Annual Ball



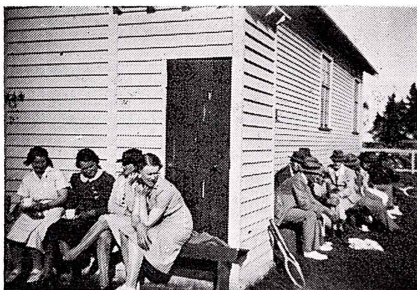
OPENING OF THE LAURISTON SOLDIERS MEMORIAL HALL EXTENSION, 1958

on 13 August, 1931, Donald's Band of 3 instruments were engaged. Admission charges were gents 2/6, ladies 1/6. From June 1932 the Social Club held fortnightly euchre and dances. The first Anzac Day Memorial Service was held on 25 April, 1936.

In 1938 the tender for painting hall and front fence was £38.0.0. On 16 December, Lauriston Soldiers' Farewell Committee was formed to arrange farewells and welcome home functions for soldiers. The Red Cross committee were given special rates for evening classes in 1940. In October the credit balance was £36.17.1.

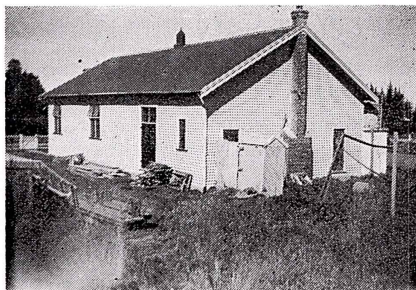
In March 1941, 50 macrocarpa trees were planted along north-west boundary. The home guard were invited to Anzac Service and given free use of hall. The hall was available in case of emergencies, for Red Cross or Home Guard. March 1943: Stock and grain drive to aid funds. Letting of the hall to Army was approved.

At a public meeting it was decided that a fund be started for additions to the hall as a memorial to soldiers of the 1939-45 war. A ladies' committee was formed to aid fund raising. In July, 1946, A. T. Maidens' resignation was received with regret and he was made a life member. The death of H. J. Crothers, the first Chairman in June, 1947, is recorded. A general meeting of Society in May, 1949 decided not to vest the hall in the County Council—thus it was necessary to obtain government grant of £ for £ subsidy for the War Memorial extension. On 19 December, 1950, a Centennial of Canterbury Ball was held in the hall.



TENNIS AT LAURISTON, 1940

Mrs. Hall, Mrs. J. Marshall, Mrs. Doak,
Ann Hampton



**BACK VIEW OF THE ORIGINAL LAURISTON
HALL, 1930**

The tender for spray painting hall in May 1951 was £109.0.0 and Colin Dalgety retired from caretaker position in April, 1952, after 23 years service. At the annual meeting on the 25 October, 1954, a small gift was given to H. T. Crothers in appreciation of his 25 years' service as secretary. In 1954 at the Ball to celebrate 25 years, charges were 12/6 double, 7/6 and 5/-

single. Cakes were purchased, and ladies brought sandwiches. Cooks Orchestra was hired.

In 1955, V. W. Boag loaned a 50 acre paddock for 2 years to augment funds for the additions to hall. The first year the committee sowed grass and turnips and beside selling the feed, sheep were bought to fatten. In-lamb ewes were also bought and distributed among local farmers. The second year, wheat was sown and harvested. This project brought in over half the amount required for the extensions.

The dedication and opening of the World War II Soldiers Memorial wing was on 26 January, 1958, at 2 p.m. The following year the ladies' committee helped towards payment of linoleum for the kitchen, and £72.12.0 from dances was raised to aid the furnishing fund. A £50 legacy from the late A. T. Maidens was received.

In 1960 two street lights were installed on Coleridge Street and Ashburton County Council tar sealed it. In 1961, 54 ewes were purchased, and the nine farmers carrying them sold their lambs and wool for the Hall Society's funds. This scheme was discontinued in 1964, when the ewes were sold for 30/- per head. An electric range was donated in 1963 for kitchen use. In October 1966, it was agreed the Hall Society administer the 4 acres of land opposite the Hall, purchased for £425.0.0 by the district for recreational use. The Cricket Club was granted permission in 1967 to shift their pavilion to the newly prepared area—rental \$1 per year. Combined Hall Society and C.W.I. cabaret ball on 1 May, 1969, George Taylor's Band (80 tickets \$5 double). The playcentre requested the long term use of the hall twice weekly in 1970, and in 1971 a clock was donated for the meeting room by the C.W.I.

In 1974 tree planting opposite hall was completed and the hall painting cost \$1220. The school children work project in 1977 was composting and trimming around the trees in recreational area. The Anzac Service was discontinued in 1979 as there were few ex servicemen for parade. The flag continues to be raised and wreaths are still placed on the hall to honour this day. Also in 1979 a new zip was bought for the kitchen. The south west corner of hall was repaired for \$797.26 in 1980. Stainless steel sink units in kitchen were installed in 1982, when, also, hall hire charges were increased sharply, in line with spiralling costs. Hall painting costs were \$5,520 in 1982.

List of Chairmen since 1929: H. J. Crothers, S. G. Lemon, J. R. Mounsey, G. L. McRobb, S. J. Le'ham, L. A. Reesby, T. H. Lemon, P. Sankey, R. W. Spicer (present irrigation race controller for Lauriston).

List of Secretaries since 1929: H. T. Crothers, T. E. Doak, G. Douglas, M. J. Wright, P. Sankey, R. H. Lemon.

List of Treasurer: A. T. Maidens, G. Scarth, G. McRobb, T. H. Lemon, P. W. Boag, R. W. McConnell, D. Butterick.

LAURISTON DISTRICT

Roll of Honour, 1914-1918

Wilfrid Smith, John Usher, William Mahoney, George Stayt, Richard Farrelly, William Rae, William McCormick, Arthur Wicks, James Clinton, James Goldie, Archibald McFarlane, Robert Smith, Alfred Kennish, Joseph Goldsmith, Cordner Newlove, Alexander Cockburn, James Hart, H. Morris, R. Houston, D. Gunn, J. Gaudin, T. Hickman, R. D. Murray, L. S. Murray, J. A. Penney, W. J. Goodwin, M. J. Dailey, D. Fechny, W. Capley, G. James, S. Hansen, M. O'Grady, J. Dailey, A. Menoun, J. Moore, R. T. Moore.

Killed in action — (We honour them)

C. Newlove, J. Kerr, G. Waddell, D. Farley, J. Maidens, W. Lemon, W. Capley, C. L. Goodwin.

Roll of Honour, 1939-45

D. M. Anderson, G. G. Anderson, W. S. Ashworth, E. A. Blain, W. G. Clark, W. H. Chapman, T. C. Dalgety, S. M. Dalgety, J. Daley, H. W. Farquhar, D. L. Fyfe, C. M. Fyfe, S. H. Goodwin, W. J. Hillyer, Edna Lemon, A. S. Lemon, S. G. Lemon, T. H. Lemon, H. V. McNeill, T. D. McNeill, R. T. McCormick, J. G. McKenzie, R. McKenzie, R. J. Pluck, K. S. Pluck, T. Stapleton, H. Sutton, K. J. Smith, W. H. B. Smith, J. S. Lilley.

Killed in action — (We honour them)

T. R. Hawkins, R. G. C. Payne.

BARRHILL DISTRICT

Roll of Honour, 1914-1918

W. E. Smith, A. G. Gadd, G. Gadd, A. Ballands, J. Moore, O. Hanson, W. Reeves, P. S. Collison (died of sickness 1918), J. Clinton, J. Penney, G. McJarrow, J. D. Crampton, P. A. Oram, J. McKenzie, O. Wilkie (died of wounds), M. Molloy, T. Clinton (accidentally killed 1917), S. J. Bishop, A. J. Bishop, J. Brick, B. O'Connell, J. Bell, O. H. Iles, W. G. Toon, F. W. Watson.

1939-1945 World War II

We will remember them

I. Kennedy, E. W. McLachlan, W. G. Stephens
(Killed in action)

Nurse M. J. Holmes, J. S. Clinton, F. T. Dixon, H. W. Farquhar, S. A. Leaman, A. T. Maw, C. W. McLachlan, W. C. A. Nicol, W. E. Scoon.

JOHN CATHCART WASON

“Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with all thy might”

Ecclesiastes 9 v 10

In 1978 Graham Campion, “Corwar” Barrhill was able to visit Wason’s family and crypt in Barrhill, Ayrshire, Scotland. Graham discovered the above text on J. C. Wason’s headstone and it seemed fitting, for he was a forceful, dynamic man. The crypt had beautiful walls with wrought iron gates at the entrance and a plaque bearing the family coat of arms.

John Cathcart Wason’s epitaph on headstone reads;

In loving memory of J. C. Wason M.P., youngest son
of Rigby Wason M.P.

born 1848 died 19 April 1921

also

Alice Seymour Wason (his wife)

died 19 July 1924 (no issue)

Wason was educated at Walehem and Rugby and called to the Bar at Middle Temple in London. Another brother was an M.P. and yet another was a captain in the Brigadier Guards.

CORWAR IN SCOTLAND

This estate was originally 10,000 acres but today just the restored, stone built, two storeyed mansion remains, on 200 acres. It had originally 75 acres of gardens, lakes and lawns with the Wason’s employing 20 gardeners. Graham learnt that there are still farms on the old Corwar estate called Creeside and Balrazie. It is apparent that Wason was a product of a family which was wealthy and extremely forward in many aspects of public life. They owned big estates, developed and finally subdivided them, as he did here in N.Z.

CORWAR IN NEW ZEALAND

John C. Wason came to N.Z. in 1869, one of the few who had ready money available. Prior to Wason buying Lendon run for £10,000 Colonel Alexander Lean walked from the Royal Hotel (now Grenadier), Oxford Terrace, to his newly acquired Lyndhurst run in 1853. (He renamed it Lendon, which in turn Wason named Corwar). Lean and his friend George Ross travelled the first 24 miles across the waterless Canterbury plains with only a mixture of sherry and water in their water bottles. Of this mixture Lean wrote: “Of all the compounds for a drink on a journey, I pronounce sherry and water the worst! The effects of sherry on my palate I shall never forget.”

Wason's marriage certificate reveals the date and place—18 June, 1873, Sydney. John C. Wason, bachelor N.Z. sheep farmer aged 24 to Alice Seymour Bell, spinster New South Wales aged 22. It seems they were married at the bride's family's residence, Bligh Street, according to the rites of the Presbyterian Church.

Mr and Mrs Wason settled at Corwar, Barrhill in 1873 and lived in their 20 room single storeyed home on the banks of the Rakaia River. Like all upper class citizens they drove their carriage and pair up to their residence, along tree-lined avenues into spacious grounds—a tranquil world sheltered from the outside. At the gate entrance stood the gatekeeper's lodge (Corwar Lodge today). Wason employed the keeper to open the gate every time he or his wife drove out or returned. There was a bell connected from the homestead to the lodge, half a mile away, that Wason rang when he was departing. The keeper would, of course, open the gates promptly.

Periodically Wason would return to U.K. and in his absence William McMillan of Cairnbrae, would oversee Corwar. William's grandson, William McMillan of "Matagouri" Culverden, had in his keeping J. C. Wason's shot gun, that had been presented to his grandfather in the 1890s. Before returning to Great Britain, Wason removed and kept a presentation disc from the gun and then presented it to W. McMillan. This well preserved shot gun has been kindly donated to Corwar Lodge from the McMillan family.

This article was in the Ashburton Guardian 22 August, 1882—The Ashburton Hunt Club, taking advantage of an invitation at the hands of the generous proprietor of Corwar, followed the hounds in a run over the estate on Saturday. Excellent sport was obtained, several of the riders being brought to the ground by the merry pace at which they were led by the pack, no casualties occurring.

This report was found in the Journal of Agriculture 20 January, 1914—Pinus Radiata was first employed in house buildings at Barrhill, some 37 years ago when John Cathcart Wason had some 20 year old trees converted into timber. (The Corwar sawmill was almost opposite Corwar homestead entrance.)

Even a shipment of cement in barrels was discharged at Oashore Inlet, Lake Forsyth, in the 1870s. This was transported across Lake Ellesmere, and thence by dray up the Rakaia River bed for Wason's buildings at Barrhill and Corwar.

John C. Wason was chairman of the Rakaia Road Board from 1874-77 and he was a member of the Ashburton County Council from 1876-79. Wason was largely responsible for the first move towards establishing the Ashburton Hospital in 1879, and the Ashburton High School in 1890.

In 1891 Rakaia Swimming Club elected Wason as one of its committee and the Rakaia Cricket Club officers in 1895 were Wason, Lyttelton and Holmes. Wason was president of the Rakaia Rugby Football Club in 1893

and in 1896 he was made Vice-President of the Acclimatisation Society. The Ashburton Caledonian Society in 1893, elected Wason as President with J. C. N. Grigg Longbeach Vice-President. Wason was a foundation member and President in 1896 of the Ashburton County Racing Club and he was made an honorary member of the Golf Club, Model Yacht Club and the Tinwald Racing Club, that year.

The Canterbury Rabbit Club, 1874-82, involved its members in a gruelling sport. It was a most select bastion, the set, described as the "shooting ton" of Canterbury included Wason and A. D. McIlraith, Balrazie. Wason was even amongst those licenced in one year to shoot cock pheasants in Canterbury.

Wason was a member of the exclusive Christchurch Club which overlooked Latimer Square—as were G. Alington and E. S. Coster. Wason was elected to the Coleridge Electorate 1876-1979, the Wakanui Electorate 1881-1882, and the Selwyn Electorate 1896-1899.

On returning to U.K. in 1900, Wason immediately was elected M.P. for Orkney and Shetland as a Unionist. After a disagreement with that party he resigned his seat and stood again for Liberal, remaining as an M.P. until his death in 1921.

Wason was in accord with our ideas of freedom and freemen. He free-held small farms leaving their owners alone as much as possible thus helping to establish the prosperous and happy country we have today.

BARRHILL VILLAGE

"Barrhill began as one man's vision, it is now mostly a dream". These words of Canon Parr's were quoted in the Anglican Church magazine "The Fisherman" in 1951. The man, of course, was John Cathcart Wason.

The thriving village of 50 or so people that was Barrhill in the 1880 and 90s is indeed different today. The 28 sections remain but gone are the school pupils and its many inhabitants. The five concrete buildings, the church, school, schoolhouse, the hotel and the old blacksmith's shop remain. The original iron remains on the roof of the school and schoolhouse. The remains of the 20 feet in diameter base of the Boiling Down Works, can be seen on Poplar Avenue. The schoolhouse is leased by Mrs E. Horniblow and Mrs L. Bennetts of Christchurch as a weekend cottage. The old hotel site and blacksmith's shop is owned by the Ewing family, Christchurch, and the old world holiday cottage, opposite the church was built in 1969 by Derek Byrne also of Christchurch. This cottage adds charm to the village.

The Hurst family, originally from Sussex U.K. were residents for many years. Daniel and his brother Stephen Hurst settled in Barrhill in the 1870s

and were at the inaugural meeting of the Barrhill School committee. Both of them were vestrymen at St John's Church from its beginning, in 1877. From 1872 until 1967, when Ray Hurst left the village, there had been Hursts going to school, growing up and living at Barrhill.

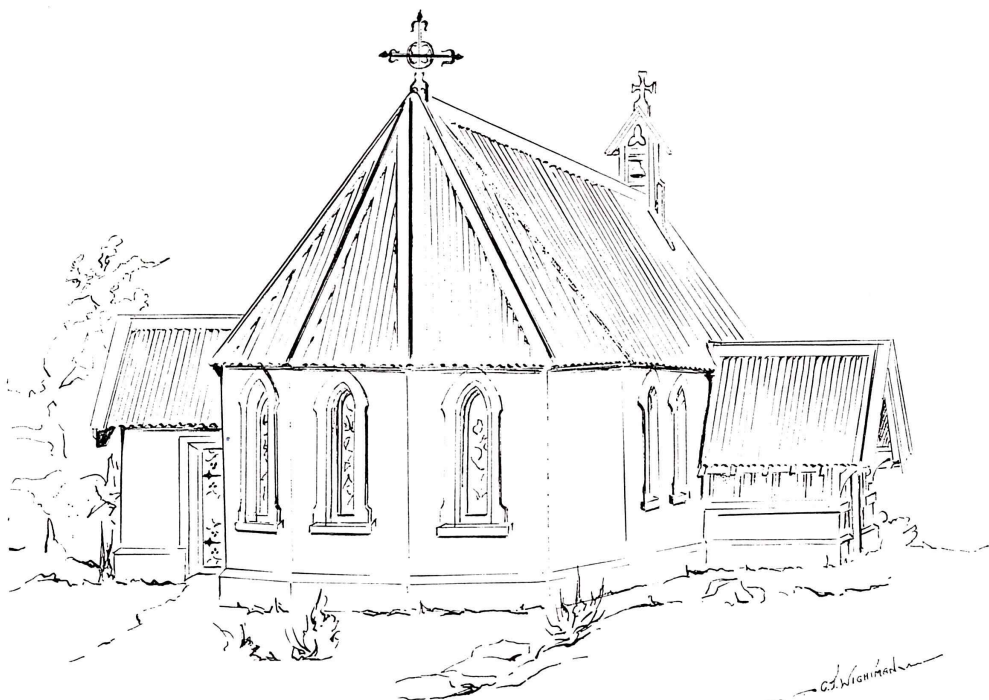
The Clinton family were also residents for many years and attended Barrhill school. Mr and Mrs Jim Clinton lived in the school house from 1948 until 1974. Jim's brother Bill, farmed on the Back Track. About 8 homes remained in the village when the school closed in 1938 and the school grounds became overgrown with gorse and broom. The number of residents gradually dwindled away and the village slipped backwards, giving it a deserted, uncared for look.

In 1972, Jack and Dorothy Irwin became the only permanent residents of Barrhill Village. Sheep now graze and thrive in the shelter of numerous old fruit trees, native and oaks. Even an ancient mulberry tree still stands, gnarled with age, in one of the sections. In the village square daffodils and violets flower in all their glory, in the spring time (Nell Johnston kindly donated hundreds of daffodil bulbs). On a hot day when the north west wind is roaring over the plains, it is green and peaceful under those magnificent old oaks and elms—a splendid memorial to John Cathcart Wason.



BARRHILL VILLAGE FROM THE AIR, 1975

Shows Three Circles of Trees Depicting Holy Trinity (Photo by W. R. Irwin)



ST. JOHN'S, BARRHILL

ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH, BARRHILL

"He brought me to the banqueting house and His banner over me was love."
Song of Solomon 2:4

It is with reverence and admiration that so many visitors and tourists enter the historic Barrhill Anglican Church. Dedicated and given the saintly name of St. John, the Evangelist, it stands after 105 years in perfect condition and in its original state. The church is built of 12 inch thick concrete walls in its original state. The church is built of 12 inch thick concrete walls to a steeply pitched roof.

The first service was held on 8 July 1877 conducted by Rev. W. E. Paige, vicar of Ashburton parish. Before the church was built services were held in the Corwar woolshed taken by the Rev. Paige or by the lay reader, Mr C. Mackie, of Lavington. (John Lochheads today). Church records are missing from 1876 to 1887 and from 1900 to 1926 but it appears that Mr John Cathcart Wason, of Corwar, provided much of the finance for the building of St John's Church.

These precise 1887 minutes are the first on record: A meeting of parishioners held at St John's Church, Barrhill on Sunday 1st May 1887. Present Rev. H. Collins Chairman, Messrs C. S. Alington, J. Spooner, John Irwin, Stephen Hurst and E. H. Clark. The chairman nominated Mr Charles Sydney Alington as clergyman church warden. Proposed by Mr Clark seconded by Mr S. Hurst that Mr John Irwin be nominated for the Bishop's appointment as parishioners' church warden for Barrhill—carried. Proposed by Mr Clark and seconded by Mr J. Spooner that Messrs Walter Hartnell, John Spooner, Daniel Hurst and Stephen Hurst be nominated for the Bishop's appointment as church officers for Barrhill—carried. The form of guarantee towards the curate's stipend was handed to the church wardens with the request that they would endeavour to raise subscriptions in order to keep up the services of the church.

Read and confirmed. 15 April 1887.

H. Collins, Chairman.

Mr Wason earned the goodwill and affection of the villagers of Barrhill. He worked energetically on fund raising activities, and his vision of a church became a reality.

In 1975, the extent of Wason's vision and planning was noticed when an aerial photograph, showed the trees of Barrhill, formed a pattern of three circles, symbolizing Trinity.

The church had to wait four years for its first wedding on 19 July, 1881, when Christopher Hammond married Eva Radford. Church services have been held regularly over the century at St. John's, and there was a strong Sunday School held weekly. Attendance at the Sunday School dropped from 1972, and it went into recess in 1974.



75th JUBILEE OF ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, BARRHILL, OCTOBER, 1952

In the 1930's Jack Irwin remembers mowing the church ground, with a mower drawn by two draught horses. Arthur Stephens (Balrazie) arranged for a bulldozer in 1940, to remove overgrown tree stumps. He was the first to mow the grounds with a tractor-drawn mower!

The following is part of the annual report in 1946: Thanksgiving services were held in St. John's when the long-looked-for peace was declared in 1945. At each service, one in May to celebrate V.E. day and the other in August for V.J. day, the church was packed full.

At the harvest thanksgiving service held in March, 1945, it was agreed, that instead of the usual produce being given to orphanages that year, parishioners should be asked to bring tinned food for Britain. Goods worth £20 were collected.

The beautiful tapestry kneelers are an example of work done by many women of the district and congregation. This project began in 1972 to commemorate the Centenary of St. John's, in 1977.

At the entrance of the church grounds stands the striking lych gate, planned and designed by Gerald Austin, of Christchurch. It was planned to reproduce faithfully the pitch of the roof of the church and the structure of the porch. The material and labour were supplied by local residents and the work directed by A. Hampton, assisted by A. Dixon, and others. This project was also to mark the centennial in 1977.

The Centenary of St. John's Church was highly successful, beginning with a ball on 8 July, 1977. Mrs Gordon's old time music and clothes of yesteryear gladdened the hearts of the 200 present. On Sunday, 10 July, was the Centennial Thanksgiving Service and the church was overflowing with past and present clergy, visitors and parishioners. Archdeacon Williams conducted the service and Canon Witty, of Christchurch, preached the sermon. After the service the tapestry kneelers and the lych gate were dedicated.

Prior to the service a horse drawn vehicle, restored by Alistair Stevens, had been driven into Market Square by Mr Jim Lilley, dressed in a top hat and red jacket. Alistair and Jim conveyed the Chairman of the Centennial Committee, Jack Irwin, to the church service. This added colour and a festive air to the occasion and also re-enacted the mode of travel of years gone by. After the services, Graham Buick, of Winchmore, piped the crowd from the church to the hall for lunch where the Lauriston Presbyterian Church ladies served the food. The centennial cake made by Mrs Ann Dickie and iced by Mrs Nell Johnston, was cut by Mrs Bess Dixon.

Incidentally the John Irwin mentioned in the 1887 vestry meeting indicates that the Irwin family has been involved with St. John's over the century. Two long serving church wardens were John Irwin and his son, John Coote Irwin. The third John Irwin (Jack) again was a long-serving church warden, 25 years, and now David, the fourth generation member is a church warden and Hamish, the fifth, was baptised in St. John's in 1974.

Today, 1982, the old Ancient and Modern Hymns are sharing a place in St. John's with "Songs of Praises". The words "Jesus lives Alleluia", that have been above the altar in St. John's for 105 years are probably more relevant today than ever before. Confirmation of the above quotation is in Revelation 19 verse 6: "... Hallelujah! For the Lord our God, the Almighty reigns".

We give praise and thanks to God for this hallowed place of worship.

GIFTS TO ST. JOHN'S

1897—Mrs A. McIlraith, Balrazie, gave two hand painted coloured windows which were placed each side of the altar for 70 years until they were replaced by stained glass windows. She also gave altar cloths and a collection bag. The Rev. J. Holland carved and donated the oak font. Mrs J. Holland painted and donated two paintings, "Agony in the Garden of Gethsemane" and "His Ascension into Heaven". These two beautiful water colours are still hanging in St. John's.

1901—The congregation gave two brass vases.

1930—Mr and Mrs V. Fairey donated a silver baptismal shell in memory of their eleven year old daughter Ruth.

1944—The electric light and heating was donated by Mr A. T. Maidens.

1947—Mr and Mrs J. C. Irwin donated "The Good Shepherd", the middle stained glass window, in memory of their son, William Francis Irwin, R.N.Z.A.F. who died of injuries in England in 1942 during World War II. The St. John's congregation gave an altar cross in memory of W. F. Irwin.

1948—Mr R. Maidens gave an organ stool.

1952—Two yew trees planted, one by Mrs F. McCoy and the other by Mr J. C. Irwin to commemorate the 75th anniversary.

1960—Canon and Mrs Parr donated two silver candle sticks and a communion set. Two more stained glass windows were given—"The Sower" by Mrs Bess Dixon, in memory of her husband Henry Walter Dixon, and "St. Francis", by the Maidens family, in memory of their parents, Louise Edith and Arthur Thomas Maidens. These two windows were chosen and bought in England by Mrs B. Dixon. Miss E. Richards embroidered and donated altar linen.

1962—A plaque was given by the congregation in grateful remembrance of J. C. Wason and others who had built and furnished St. John. "Then shall all the trees of the wood rejoice before the Lord". A lectern, featuring an eagle, the symbol of St. John, was paid for from a bequest to St. John's from Mr A. T. Maidens.

1963—Mr H. G. Patterson made and donated some long wooden kneelers, the church noticeboard and the mission box. Mr A. Stephens gave the plate on the church gate.

1966—Dorothy and John Irwin donated an electronic organ. Ann and Alan Dickie donated a long organ stool.

1971—Mr R. G. Mauger donated the fourth stained glass window "On the road to Emmaus" in memory of his grandparents, Elizabeth and George Blackmore, and all pioneers.

1973—Mrs D. Byrne donated a bible, Jennifer and David McLaughlin gave a candle snuffer and an anonymous donor gave a veil and burse set.

1976—Mrs Lorna Clemens donated a vicar's chair in memory of her husband, Francis John Clemens.

1979—Twenty two Good News Bibles donated.

1980—Rev. Paul Bathurst gave a pascal candle on a wooden stand.

CHURCH WARDENS AT ST. JOHN'S, 1977-1982

Messrs C. S. Alington, J. Irwin, D. Hurst, J. Spooner, A. D. Lowe, J. C. Irwin, J. Hurst, W. Hurst, S. Church, E. Collison, J. Bishop, A. V. Richards, P. L. Clinton, W. Gimson, Jack Irwin, J. H. Stevens, V. W. Boag, R. M. Irwin, D. McLaughlin, A. J. Dixon, F. Jackson and D. W. Irwin.

LAY READERS, 1977-1982

Messrs C. Mackie, W. Ward, R. Opie, P. Boag and R. M. Irwin.

ORGANISTS, 1877-1982

Mr and Mrs W. Ward and Miss Ward, Mrs W. Sayers and Mrs E. Collison, Misses B. Gadd, Bessie Irwin, B. Richards, E. Richards, M. Collison, R. Gimson, H. Hooper, B. Hooper, N. Stevens, G. Clemens, N. Boag, L. Boag, M. Boag, M. Irwin, Messrs W. F. Irwin, O. E. Hooper, P. W. Boag and Mesdames M. Aires and M. Butterick.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

Mr and Mrs W Sayers (17 years), Misses L. Fraser and G. Bishop; Rev. and Mrs E. W. Blakiston taught for an hour before church twice a month for 10 years; Mrs Dorothy Hall, 1938-1947, a dedicated teacher, over difficult war years and petrol rationing; Misses Eileen Maidens, D. Clemens, G. Clemens, J. Clemens, N. Boag, Denise Clemens, P. Curd, L. Maw, Mesdames A. Dickie, D. McLaughlin, R. M. Irwin, Messrs P. W. Boag and B. Crozier.

IN CHARGE OF THE PARISH

CURATES: Rev. Henry Collins 1877, Rev. W. H. Elton 1879, Rev. E. E. Chambers 1881, Rev. H. Collins 1887, Rev. John Holland 1891.

VICARS: Rev. J. Holland 1891, Rev. H. H. Mathais 1900, Rev. G. Russell 1903, Rev. H. H. Mathais 1904, Rev. H. Nelson Wright 1913, Rev. E. N. Blakiston 1916, Rev. J. C. Hawksworth 1926, Rev. A. H. Barnett 1930, Rev. H. J. W. Knights 1935, Rev. W. C. Wisdom 1939, Rev. B. C. Holden 1942, Rev. B. K. Bond 1946, Rev. E. E. Atkinson 1950, Canon S. Parr 1953, Rev. F. Wright 1960, Rev. G. Mountfort 1963, Rev. K. Robinson

1969, Rev. R. Aires 1970, Archdeacon S. Woods 1973 (3 months), Rev. J. Eaton 1973, Archdeacon R. O. Williams 1976, Rev. Paul Bathurst 1979-.

The vestry for St. John's 1983 is: Mr and Mrs R. M. Irwin, Mr and Mrs J. Stevens, Mr and Mrs D. McLaughlin, Mr and Mrs D. W. Irwin, Mr and Mrs J. Ingold, Mr and Mrs J. Irwin, Mrs A. Dixon, Mr R. Fitts, Mr and Mrs J. Bennett.

Church Wardens: A. J. Dixon, D. W. Irwin. Secretary/Treasurer: Colin Maw. Organist: Mrs Margaret Butterick. Lay Reader: R. M. Irwin. Vicar of the Rakaia Parish: Rev. Paul Bathurst.

SHERWOOD ANGLICAN CHURCH

All Saints' Anglican Church was built in 1880, near the Sherwood Railway Station. Services were held once a month, at 3 p.m., taken by a lay reader. The early settlers anticipated closer settlement of the Sherwood area, and as this did not eventuate, it was decided to remove All Saints' Church, to Methven, (Methven's first wooden church had been destroyed in a gale force nor'wester in May, 1884). The removal contract, let to John Scrimgeour, took seven weeks to complete. Two traction engines and a six wheeled transporter were used for the thirteen mile journey. After its arrival in Methven, the church was reconditioned and plastered. It was opened and rededicated on 23 November, 1884, by Bishop Harper. This All Saints' Church is still in good repair and is used regularly for worship.

In the Barrhill Church minutes, 12 February 1941, the sale of the land, that All Saints' was located on at Sherwood, was confirmed. Mrs R. Letham bought the section from the Church Property Trustees.

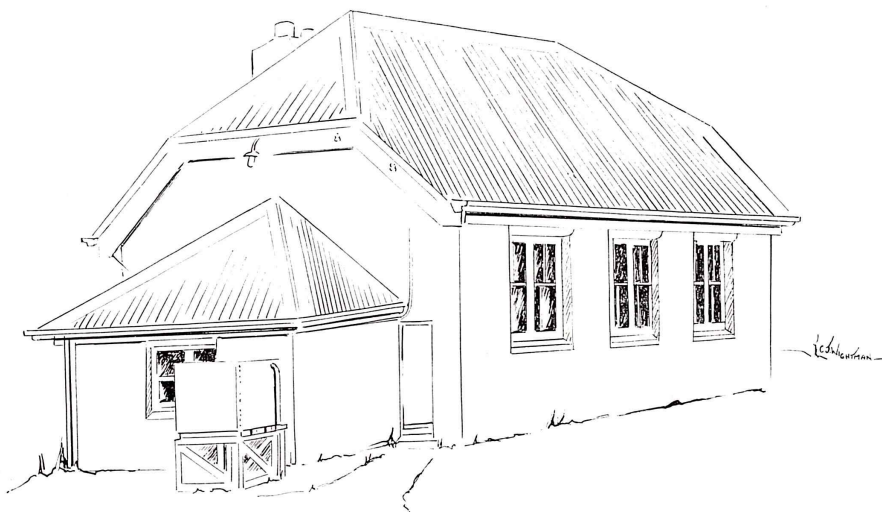
BARRHILL HALL

The last headmaster of the Barrhill School, S. J. Drew, states in a letter to the Secretary, Canterbury Education Board on 1 December 1937—quote: "As long as the Barrhill School is open, I shall be quite pleased to remain here, as the district and school are among the most pleasant I have taught in", unquote.

An attempt was made in 1944 by George Ashton to get the school reopened — a list was sent to the Education Board of the likely children to attend if reopened. The strongest argument against reopening was that Std. 5 and Std. 6 pupils would lose the chance to attend technical training at Methven. The Education Board decided to take no action.

1949—20 April: The building committee of Canterbury Education Board decided to seek the Education Department's permission to call tenders for the sale of the old school and site at Barrhill. (Demolition had been considered but as the school is concrete, very little could be salvaged.)

1949—28 April: J. Marshall, Chairman of Social Committee received letter from Canterbury Education Board asking if the local residents wished to lodge a tender for the old school building (value £225). By 1951 it had been returned for use as a public hall but ownership remained with the Board.



BARRHILL HALL (THE OLD SCHOOL)

1958—30 July: Board considering re-transfer of Barrhill School property to the Crown.

1958—9 October: J. F. Clemens, Secretary Barrhill Hall Committee, wrote to Canterbury Education Board, agreeing to the transfer of the buildings and site to the Crown Lands.

1959—10 December: The buildings, the school and school house, and site declared Crown Land and from this date the tenants of the school house paid rent to the District Office of the Department of Lands and Survey.

The hall was vested with the Ashburton County Council in 1971. By 1976 the old school (hall), the school grounds and the school house were also vested in the Council.

The concrete block toilets were built by local residents, in 1973. They were: Alan Hampton (supervisor), Jack Stevens, Ted Hooper, John Irwin, David Campion and Gordon Maw. In 1976 the local hall committee agreed to administer both the hall and school house.

The Barrhill Hall Committee in 1983 is John Irwin (Chairman), Graham Cairns (Secretary/Treasurer), A. Hampton, Colin Maw, Jack Stevens.

BARRHILL POST OFFICE

The first Post Office at Barrhill opened in 1876 with H. Sparrow as postmaster, followed by G. Edgington in 1877. G. Silvester whose salary was £6 per annum took over in 1880. G. Edgington again in 1883, W. Dickie in 1884 and T. Mills in 1885. Mills conveyed mail by horseback for £50 per annum. J. Bishop became postmaster in 1895 and mail was reduced to thrice weekly. Mrs Eliz. Hurs^t was postmistress from 1901 until 1924. From 1924 until

1937 a member of the Hurst family carried on in charge of the telephone office which received and sent telegrams from 1906. A telephone bureau for use in toll calls was added in 1908. In 1976 automatic telephones brought the district into the Ashburton free-calling area.

Jack Irwin can remember that until 1925 mail and papers were delivered daily from Rakaia, by horse and gig driven by J. Cronin. Travelling along the River Road he delivered private mail bags to about 30 householders, hanging them on a cabbage tree or gates. These water-proofed canvas bags were locked and had to be emptied of mail in readiness for picking up on his return journey with outgoing mail at 3 p.m.

Barrhill Post Office closed on 7 February 1925 with the beginning of the rural delivery service.

On 17 January 1925, authority was given for the establishment of a new rural delivery from Rakaia, to serve Highbank, Mt. Hutt and Barrhill. The tender by A. A. Oliver for £375 per annum was accepted. Known at first as the Mt. Hutt Rural Delivery, it has continued until this day leaving Rakaia at 8.30 a.m. and returning (now) by 2 p.m. covering 160 miles and serving 203 householders. The delivery was renamed No. 2 R.D. but because the last box holders on the run complained about getting the "morning paper" at 4 p.m. a sub-rural delivery No. 4 R.D., was added in 1974. The No. 4 R.D. covers 51 miles for 46 box holders. The contractor today is Malcolm Bennett.

BARRHILL LIBRARY

The library was founded by Mr Ronald Opie (head teacher) in 1913. The inaugural meeting was held on 1 November, 1913 in the Barrhill School. Committee: Messrs A. Penney (Chairman), C. Gadd, P. Collison, R. Opie (Librarian) and Mrs W. Hurst.

The Country Library van called three times a year to the library (a hut 10 feet by 8 feet) lent by O. E. Hooper. It was sited on a section along a "paper" road between the farms of N. McLaughlin and G. Cairns. It was the only library for miles around and registrations show that members came from as far away as Lauriston. Socials were held in the Barrhill School to augment funds to buy new books. In 1937 a new library was built in the village. Mrs J. Clinton was librarian for many years.

On 1 March, 1960, E. H. Gibbs, the librarian, reported that the number of members had dwindled and the library would have to close. The building and books (still there today) including £6.40 in hand, were handed over to the Barrhill Hall Society.

CORWAR LODGE

The desire to preserve the Corwar Gatekeepers' Lodge for posterity, resulted in the formation of the Barrhill Corwar Lodge Preservation Society on 8 February, 1972.

After 105 years, the concrete of Corwar Lodge is still in perfect order. The walls dividing each of the four rooms and the floor are built of concrete,

with the fireplace built across the corner of the kitchen. The heat, at times intense, penetrates through the walls into the other three rooms, thus, as Mrs Opie recalled, bed and furniture had to be kept away from the walls nearest the fireplace! The lodge is 484 sq. ft in size. Originally the roof was of slate, then iron, then tiles and finally slates in 1982.

Mr R. G. Mauger, Christchurch, whose grandparents Elizabeth and George Blackmore lived at Barrhill, began restoration of the lodge in 1970 at his own expense, helped by a generous donation from Mr and Mrs Mark Curd. (Mark's grandfather was a gardener for Wason in 1879 and lived in the lodge.) Mr Mauger repaired and renewed the roof with decramastic tiles, fitted lead light windows and lined the ceilings.



CORWAR LODGE AND ITS COMMITTEE, NOVEMBER, 1978

A. Dixon (President), L. Cairns, V. Clemens, J. Stevens, B. Dixon,
J. Hampton (Secretary-Treasurer), A. Hampton

Front : J. Wightman, J. Campion, D. Irwin, R. Hampton, J. Irwin,
(Note the Imported Standard in fence)

A fence around the lodge contains old galvanised boundary posts imported from Liverpool. Mr C. C. A. McLachlan, M.P., owner of Corwar offered to donate the lodge and surrounding 12.1 perches of land to the community, on the condition that the deeds be vested with the Ashburton County Council. Details of this transaction were not completed when Corwar was sold to Mr David N. Campion, who completed the legalities. There is a great interest shown in the furnishings and the articles of the 1890's that have been collected, donated and lent to the Society.

On Friday, 30 March 1979, the lodge was officially opened by the Hon. C. C. A. McLachlan, M.P. who deputized for the Rt. Hon. R. D. Muldoon, who was prevented from opening the lodge, because of inclement weather preventing his aircraft from leaving Wellington.

The lodge is maintained by a committee of local people, and the latest development has been the re-roofing with slates taken from the demolished Phillipstown School, Christchurch. The Patrons are Mr D. N. Campion and the Hon. C. C. A. McLachlan and the committee shown in the photo.

ADMINISTRATION

ASHBURTON ROAD BOARD

A study of the records of the first Road Board constituted in the Ashburton County reveals some of the difficulties under which the work of local administration was conducted in its initial stages.

Mr Alexander Lean ("Corwar") was chairman of the meeting of electors and householders held at Turton's Accommodation House (Ashburton) on 2 February, 1864. Lean gave notice to the elected members of the Ashburton Road Board, by circular letter, that the first meeting would be held at Mr Anthony Thompson's Accommodation House on 1 March, 1864. On that day four men were appointed, Messrs A. Lean, C. P. Cox (Mt. Somers), Robert Park (Winchmore), Edward Chapman (Acton run).

ASHBURTON COUNTY COUNCIL

The election of the first Ashburton County Council took place on 22 December, 1876, and the polling booth was the Ashburton Road Board office in Moore Street. Members elected were: W. C. Walker, E. G. Wright, C. Reed, J. C. Wason, C. N. Mackie, Alf. Saunders and Thomas Bullock. Walker was elected chairman and he held that position from 1877-1893.

Local members throughout the century were: J. C. Wason 1876-1879, W. McMillan 1888-1893, J. A. Johnston 1893-1902, W. J. Dickie 1905-1914, A. Drummond 1914-1920 (Chairman 1920) (old pupil), W. W. Goodwin 1917-1923, John Moore 1923-1943 (Chairman 1932-1934) (old pupil), H. J. Crothers 1925-1944 (Chairman 1938-1940), C. A. Campion 1935-1944 (Chairman 1943-1944), S. J. Letham 1962-1980 (Chairman 1973-1977) (old pupil), John Irwin 1965-1980.

SOUTH RAKAIA ROAD BOARD

The members of this new board were in office for only 5 years, from 1874 to 1879. They were: John C. Wason (Chairman), Edward Coster, Charles N. Mackie, W. Herbert Alington and D. Gordon Holmes. At a meeting, before it was dissolved, it is recorded that it achieved more prominence than any similar body in New Zealand. These 5 men certainly distinguished themselves in this area.

Local members on the Rakaia Road Board were: Andrew Letham of Sherwood (1902-1907); George Hartnell, of Talbot Trees (part of Lavington) (1908-1911)—Hartnell was also a member of the Barrhill School Committee; H. J. Crothers, of "Ashleigh", Sherwood (1920-1925); Alex. Drummond of "Rosedale" (1911-1919). This board merged with the Ashburton County Council in 1939.

MT. HUTT ROAD BOARD

1

1879

April 23, Mount Hutt Road Board.
Bar Hill S.

At the first meeting of the Mt Hutt Road Board. present
Messrs Jackson, McMillan, Chapman, Bennett & Abington. It was proposed by Mr Jackson & seconded by Mr McMillan that Mr Chapman be elected Chairman carried unanimously.

2 - Resolved that the Chairman be required to procure copies of the Road Board & other Acts - as well as such account Books & Regulations as may be required.

Resolved that the next meeting be held on Friday 9th May next at 1 1/2 o'clock at Corwar -

Read & confirmed.
May 9th 1879

Edward Chapman
Chairman

MINUTES OF FIRST MEETING IN 1879, HELD AT "CORWAR"

In December, 1895, the Mt. Hutt Road Board appealed to the Ashburton County Council, asking for a cutting of an extensive channel to the Rakaia River. Legal action and controversy revealed how unsatisfactory were some of the most used roads in the Mt. Hutt district. Stormwater poured on to highways and made them almost impassable to pedestrians and cyclists. Part of the difficulty was Dry Creek which in wet weather, acted as a drain without an outlet. Today, in 1982, it is still troublesome in very wet weather!

Farmers, under the advice of the Catchment Board, have allowed controlled grassed channels to be cut through their farms. This floodwater system runs from Mt. Hutt to Urrall, thus accommodating the storm water.

Boundary Changes

A change took place in September, 1902 when the area of land bounded by Lauriston-Barrhill Roads, Winchmore-Lauriston Roads, Thompson Track, Line Road, Farquhars Road and the Rakaia River was transferred from Mt. Hutt to South Rakaia district. Both the South Rakaia Road Board and the Mt. Hutt Road Board were merged with the Ashburton County Council in 1939 and the riding remains the same today.

Chairmen of the Mt. Hutt Road Board who have served this area, Wm. McMillan (1887-81), W. J. Dickie (1907-13), W. W. Goodwin (1918-19).

Other members: J. Alexander, J. A. Johnstone, P. Drummond, J. Murdock, A. J. Dent, C. A. Campion and P. A. Goodwin

Ashburton Hospital Board

J. C. Wason was at the meeting held in January 1879, to establish the Ashburton Hospital, and was on the first Board formed. W. J. Dickie was a member from 1910-21, C. A. Campion 1929-50 and Chairman 1944-50. Gavin S. Marshall (formerly of "Balrazie"), an old pupil of Lauriston School became a member in 1968 and Chairman from 1976 to the present day.

WATER RACES

A gala day was celebrated at Pudding Hill on 31 January, 1880. The chairman, W. Walker and members of the Ashburton County Council, the Mayor of Ashburton (H. Friedlander) and the Borough Councillors together with 73 people gathered, at the Ashburton Railway Station. They were conveyed by rail to Methven (via Rakaia) then by McRae's coaches to Pudding Hill, six miles away. The special occasion was the "turning on" of the water race intake supplying water in the Methven, Highbank, Lauriston, Barrhill and other districts. This network of water races covering 3,000 miles overall (4,830 km) now serves the Ashburton County from the hills to the sea.

Water for domestic use was generally collected from the roofs of houses and sheds and stored in underground tanks or storage wells. Before the water races, water for stock, however, had to be carted in tanks on drays, from the Ashburton or Rakaia Rivers — an extremely arduous task! The scarcity of water prevented much subdivision on the plains — until the Irrigation System in 1945.

George Smart, the water ranger, in the 20's, 30's and early 40's, patrolled the water races on his bicycle. He travelled over 40 miles a day inspecting the races. He would lift the bike over the fences, to trace race blockages on the farms. Tyre patching gear was all he carried.

THOMPSON'S TRACK

Anthony Thompson and his 2 young sons left U.K. in 1850 to settle in N.Z. (His wife had died earlier.) Anthony was a trained wheelwright and blacksmith. He set up a business in Christchurch. Later he shifted to Ashburton, as he could see that there were many broken down wagons along the route south

George, one of Anthony's sons, drove bullock wagons from Christchurch to Mt. Somers for "Grandad Shaw". He realized that a day or two could be saved if he made a more direct route. So, George Thompson set out from Rakaia with the mountain always in sight ahead. He lined up the backs of the bullocks with the mountain. The first night he camped at Spring Creek,

where there was running water for the bullocks. Next camp was 14 miles away and with 2 days in-hand he arrived at Mt. Somers. Hence Thompson's Track was named after this enterprising bullock driver and it became a busy trail, with mail coaches as well as bullock wagons.

Thompson's Track was more central for members of the Ashburton Road Board, for their meetings, mostly held in Thompson's Accommodation House, which was built of split slab, by Anthony Thompson at Spring Creek, in 1863.

By 1971, the north branch of the Ashburton River was bridged at the top end of Thompson's Track, and "The Track" completely tar-sealed. Thus the journey from Christchurch to Mt. Somers was considerably shortened.

THE BACK TRACK

The Back Track was the shortest route from Rakaia to Methven, via Marawiti, in the early days.

George Petrie, a pupil of the Lauriston School from 1912-1918, tells of the Back Track, being the main route from Rakaia to Timaru in the coaching days. He says there was a Blacksmith Shop at the top of Back Track and Barkers Road. This corner was called Blacklers Corner. It was the stopping place for the coaches and George says that Methven was supposed to have been built at that spot!

Jack Irwin, who has lived on the Back Track most of his life, says that it was a grass track, until 1924, from the Barrhill-Lauriston Road down to the Somerton Road. Jack says that the shingling of this road was carried out by a contractor named Hutton. They had 4 men, 7 draught horses and 4 tip drays for this road building job. The men camped in a hut and shifted it to each shingle pit, as work progressed. These pits were two miles apart and each one was newly formed. Jack can remember a horse and dray would go along one side of the road, full of shingle, without a driver. Another horse and dray would go along the other side of the road, empty — again driverless. One man would be on the road to receive the shingle, by taking the tail board off the tip dray each time. He would then spread the shingle with a shovel.

Another man would be directing the horses into the pit and the others would be filling a dray. Jack says that the boss of the project, Hutton, had a white hack he used to ride full gallop to move on a driverless horse that chose to stop for a feed of grass. Also, help was required if the men had trouble getting the horses and their full drays of shingle up from the pit. Sometimes four horses had to be yoked together to haul a loaded dray up. It all depended on the steepness of the incline. The two-horse drawn grader that was used to level the Back Track in 1924 is still at Jack's old home at "Fairfield", Rokeby.

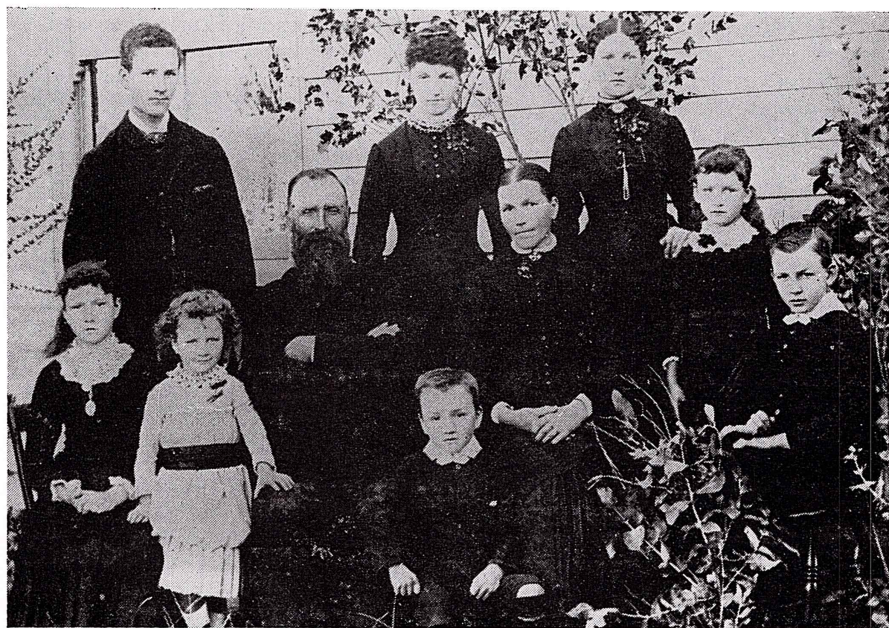
PEOPLE OF YESTERDAY AND TODAY

James and Eliza Johnston

James was born in 1841 in County Down, Ireland, and after he and Eliza were married in 1863, they sailed to N.Z. on the S.S. "Tiptree". They had 11 children.

In the early 1870's they settled in Lauriston and named their 2,000 acre property "Tiptree" after the ship. James spent nearly 30 years converting tussock waste land into productive farmland at Lauriston. Sarah Anne, William Henry, and Thomas were pupils at the Barrhill School in 1881 prior to the family attending Lauriston School. In 1873 he became a Justice of the Peace and was a member of the Mt. Hutt Road Board for some years before becoming a member of the Ashburton County Council, 1893-1902.

James Johnston was the first Chairman of the Lauriston School Committee and held that position for 20 years, 1882-1902. He purchased and presented one acre of land for the Presbyterian Church. Tom, their eldest son, farmed at "Tiverton" from 1895-1907. J. Johnston sold "Tiptree" in 1902 and shifted to Dunsandel.



Mr. and Mrs. J. A. JOHNSTON OF "TIPTREE" (CHAIRMAN 1882-1902)

Tom, Elizabeth, Mary
Margaret, Bella, Robert, Sarah, Alfred

Alington Brothers

The Alington Brothers were outstanding farmers and prominent in church and local affairs. They farmed "Talbot Trees", part of Lavington (J. K. Lochhead's today). Herbert represented Canterbury in cricket against Otago in 1869. George was master of the Ashburton Hunt Club in 1890 and Charles was a skilled carpenter and inventor of mechanical devices for farm purposes.

Charles Alington was a church warden at St. John's Church, Barrhill in 1887 to 1896. (Records cease there.)

Mackie Brothers

Charles N. Mackie and Charles Strickland Mackie shared the management of the Lavington Run. Their father, the Rev. Charles Richard Mackie, was the first vicar of Avonside Church, Christchurch and took up this run in 1853 in partnership with G. C. Beard. C. S. Mackie was Chairman of the Barrhill School 1879, '82, 85-'86. He was a lay reader at St. John's Church, even prior to the opening of the church in 1877.

John Moore

J. Moore was a member of the Lauriston School Committee and was a very active member of the Lauriston Presbyterian Church. He settled in Lauriston on "Oakwood" in 1897 and had a family of seven. The children attended Lauriston School. Jock Moore, his eldest son, left Lauriston to fight in World War I. John Moore Sr. sold out and bought a farm at Ruapuna in 1919. Returning from the war, Jock farmed at Ruapuna and was an elected member of the Ashburton County Council from 1923-1943 and Chairman from 1932-34.

Mr Jock Moore, Chairman of the Ashburton County Council, delivered a speech at the Lauriston School 50th anniversary, 18 April 1933. In his speech he recalled that during World War I he was billeted at Torquay, England. Near the billet was a Lauriston Hall and a Lauriston Street. While he was there, he and some of his friends received parcels which had been sent by the Lauriston Red Cross Society (N.Z.).

Andrew Letham of "Sherwood"

Andrew Letham was born in Lanarkshire, Scotland in 1841, and came to New Zealand (Auckland) in 1862. Andrew started farming in the Ashburton district on the Wakanui run. In 1897 he purchased the fine estate of "Sherwood" of 2,500 acres. Andrew carried out extensive operations in grain growing and sheep. He took a keen interest in the affairs of the district and was a member of the Rakaia Road Board from 1902-1907.

Mr and Mrs Letham had a family of four sons and four daughters. Andrew settled all four sons in the district. Guy and his wife farmed "Tahuna"

and they had three daughters and one son. Percy, their son, farms it today with his speciality being Border Leicester sheep. Roland and his wife Frances settled in "Ranui" and they had four daughters and two sons. Their sons Forrest and Selwyn became prominent citizens.



ROLAND AND FRANCES LETHAM
"RANUI," DECEMBER, 1907

Alan and his wife settled at "Midlands" and they had four sons and four daughters. Their younger son George farms "Midlands" today, along with his son David. George's wife Jessie is the grand-daughter of George Thompson who ran Thompson's Accommodation House, on Thompson's Track in the early 1860's. (Her grandfather was George Thompson who "blazed the trail" now known as Thompson's Track.)

Noting that huge tussocks grew on the land, George Thompson felt certain he could grow wheat. He prepared some ground, and sowed some precious wheat grains which had come in an envelope from the U.K. He threshed a good crop which he sowed the next season. Again it yielded well, and from that envelope of seed he started wheat growing on a large scale.

Walter Letham, the fourth son, farmed "Sherwood" and he and his wife had two daughters. Walter was renowned for his stud sheep (English Leicester). His Clydesdale sires were also well known.

"Sherwood"

Sir Charles Hilgendorf writes:—

"Sherwood" was taken up in 1877 by F. B. Passmore. It was the Lavington wether paddock which was bounded by the Winchmore and Mitcham Roads, Thompson's Track and the old gum plantation behind George Letham's house.

Passmore's first problem was water since there was no river near Sherwood, and he built several very large underground concrete tanks, and dug by hand a well 242 feet deep lined with bricks. Water was present at that depth only intermittently. This did not stop him erecting a windmill 50 feet high! Some of the 12 x 6 Kauri timber is still about. The water problem was not solved till the completion of the first water race constructed by the Ashburton County Council in 1880 — the "test race" from Pudding Hill.

Passmore built the Rakaia-Methven railway line for Andersons, Christchurch engineering firm. He engaged (unsuccessfully) in large scale arable farming using traction engines for ploughing. He sold out in 1882. Passmore planted the original trees at Sherwood for which the Hilgendorf family are still grateful. It seems Passmore was a better engineer than farmer. He carried out engineering projects in India, Switzerland, Jamaica and Nicaragua. A grandson, who lives in London called on us recently.

In 1885 Sherwood was bought by T. E. Upton. He was the Mr W. of Lady Barker's "Station Life in N.Z.". He had two families. One son became a member of the Council of State in India and was knighted. A son Bill lives in Ashburton and a daughter in Fairlie. Upton had the somewhat rare distinction in that he had sons who fought in the South African War, the 1914-18, and the 1939-45 wars.

Andrew Letham bought most of the land in 1898. He divided it among his sons, Guy, Allan, Roland and Walter from 1906 onwards. Walter died in the middle '30's and I bought the homestead from his executors in 1937.

SIR CHARLES HILGENDORF

Chairman Lauriston Branch of Farmers' Union and then Federated Farmers.

President Mid Canterbury Provincial Federated Farmers, 1948.

1961-80: N.Z. Meat Producers' Board.

1972-80: Chairman N.Z. Meat Producers' Board.

1949-61: Lincoln College Council.

1961-74: University Grants Committee.

1951: Nuffield Farming Scholar.

1959- to date: Ashburton Electric Power Board.

1956: Justice of Peace.

1971: Companion of the Order of St. Michael and St. George.

1980: Knight Batchelor M.A. Hon. LL.D.

William James Dickie

Mr W. J. Dickie was deeply interested in local body work all his life.

In 1902, he and Arthur Dent bought Ardagh Estate on the Chertsey Road, of 2,550 acres from Mr H. Friedlander. Dent and Dickie bought Friedlander's flock of Hampshire sheep with which they had taken numerous prizes at the Christchurch and Ashburton Shows. Horses born of draught mares and thoroughbred sires were bred on the farm, with excellent results.

Mr Dickie was a member of the Marawiti School Committee (School open from 1901-1904 only). In 1907 he was on the Lauriston School Committee. In 1904 W. J. Dickie was elected to the Mt. Hutt Road Board. He later became Chairman. From 1905-1914 Mr Dickie was a member of the Ashburton County Council. Mr Dickie, who stood for the Liberal Party, won a seat in Parliament for Selwyn in 1911. He held it until 1919.

Ardagh Estate was bought by the Crown in 1920, and subdivided for soldier settlements.

His wife, Mrs Kate Dickie, a gracious lady was a loyal worker for the Red Cross during World War I. For her devoted service, she was presented with a silver tea service. Their children attended Lauriston and Lyndhurst Schools.

Alan Dickie, one of their sons, a returned soldier from World War II, acquired the bottom half of the original Ardagh Estate, of 402 acres in 1950. Alan was a member of the Lauriston School Committee and Federated Farmers and his wife, Ann, was an Executive member of the Federation of Country Women's Institutes, Ashburton from 1963-67 and President of the Federation from 1975-79. Ann was on the Methven High School Board of Governors from 1973-76. Both their children attended Lauriston School.

Bruce Sim bought Ardagh in 1976.

W. W. Goodwin

Samuel Goodwin, his wife, five sons and five daughters, arrived in Lyttelton from Lincolnshire, in August, 1878. The family had been aboard ship for 21 weeks and 3 days.

Two of Samuel's sons, Walter and Charles, spent their lives in the Methven and Lauriston districts. Walter Goodwin married Agnes Drummond, the eldest daughter of Peter Drummond of Corwar in 1901. He bought James Dent's farm of 1,166 acres adjoining the Lauriston village in 1906. Their family of three sons, Alex, Syd, Walter and three daughters, Mona, Nell and Myrtle all went to the Lauriston School. Walter was a progressive farmer and famous for his oat-stack building (as was Alex). Walter took an active part in the community affairs. He was a Justice of Peace, a member and then Chairman of the Mt. Hutt Road Board from 1918-19, a member of the Ashburton County Council from 1917 to 1923. He was a member of the Lauriston School Committee for a number of years and Chairman from 1911 to 1914.



W. W. GOODWIN AND FAMILY

Mona, Myrtle, Nell, Alex
Sydney, Walter, Agnes and Walter, 1927

Walter's property was eventually divided among his three sons. (Walter died in 1964.) Two grandsons, Neville and Alistair (sons of Walter and Alma Goodwin) still occupy most of the original land. Alex Goodwin sold his share of the W. W. Goodwin Estate to Neil Wright in 1956. Calder Butterick bought it from the Wrights in 1972.

Mrs W. W. Goodwin

Mrs Agnes Goodwin was a good natured happy-go-lucky personality who endeared herself to everyone. She was a loyal worker for the Lauriston Presbyterian Church. Mrs Goodwin donated the section the Lauriston Soldiers' Memorial Hall is built on. On 20 December, 1929, she officially opened the Hall. She died in 1931.

Mona (Mrs McKay) tells of her mother's unselfish dedication to nursing the sick during the plague of influenza in 1919. Myrtle (Mrs Thomas) says that her mother had a wonderful faith and read her Bible daily.

Looking through Mrs Goodwin's precious old Bible reveals her love of the books Daniel, Matthew and Revelations.

Charles Goodwin (brother of W. W. Goodwin)

Charles Goodwin bought the farm of 500 acres from Peter Drummond in 1919. Situated on Thompson's Track it is now occupied by R. A. Griffiths and prior to him, Les Blain. Charles served on the Lauriston School Committee and the Barrhill Anglican Church. He was on the Committee of the Methven Trotting Club, and owned and raced horses himself.

Mr and Mrs Goodwin had three daughters, Violet, Margaret and Winifred, and they attended Lauriston School. Mrs Goodwin was most hospitable and a superb cook. Violet married O. E. Hooper, the well known trotting horse trainer and one of their daughters, Hazel, married the immediate past Minister of Transport, Colin McLachlan. Both Hazel and Colin attended the Barrhill School. Margaret married another well known trotting enthusiast, Reg Bebbington, Win married Bert Crothers; both attended Lauriston School, as did their son, Des. Bert was Chairman of the Lauriston School Committee from 1942 to 1944.

James Lemon

The association with the Lauriston district began in 1884 with the arrival of James Lemon, his wife Harriet Maria, and their family of three sons and three daughters at "Hughenden" on the Lauriston-Braemar Road.

James, born at Killinchy, County Down, Ireland, farmed firstly at Killinchy, Canterbury, N.Z., then with his young wife and family came to Ashburton. He helped in the construction of Saunders flour mill and bought land on Smithfield Road. In 1884 this property was leased and James brought his family to "Hughenden", a farm of 800 acres. He entered into extensive cropping programmes at "Balrazie", at times up to 300 acres.

James bought a threshing mill, one of the first in the county, driven by a portable engine and later by a traction engine. On James Lemon's death in 1896, this mill was sold and his widow Harriet, with her family's help, carried on the farm. Her deep commitment to her church was shown in the funding for the extensions to the vestry of the Lauriston Presbyterian Church. Failing health caused her retirement and her two sons, Samuel and Walter, carried on the farm until Walter's death in World War I.

When Samuel took over the holding he increased the farm size by purchasing adjoining land. He was a breeder of Clydesdales, hunters and standardbred horses and stud sheep. Sam was one of the first to have wheat threshed by header harvester. He, with his brothers and sisters, attended Lauriston School (one of Sam's school prize books is dated 12 December, 1887). Sam later served on the School Committee, the Church, and was a foundation member of the Lauriston Soldiers' Memorial Hall Committee.

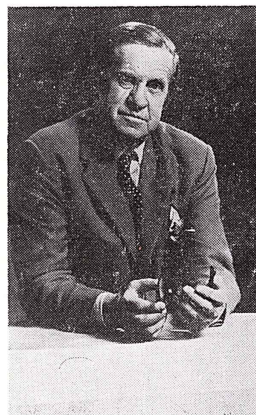
Samuel and Jessie (nee Smith of Birchlands, Staveley) family of five sons and five daughters, all attended the Lauriston School, with seven attending at one time. Transport to school was by pony or pony/cart.

Samuel sold the land to settle two soldier sons (four of his family, three sons and one daughter served in the forces overseas). On Samuel's retirement to Christchurch in 1954, "Hughenden" homestead was sold, but two sons, Thomas and Douglas remained on the land. Douglas built a house along the same road as the old homestead, (R. E. Ludemann's today). His family of three girls attended Lauriston School and his wife Nancy, served on the School Committee. Ill health caused Doug to retire from active farming in 1970.



JAMES AND HARRIET LEMON'S FAMILY
" HUGHENDON," 1900

Thomas, Walter, Harriet, Samuel,
 Martha, Mrs. H. Lemon, Flora



SIR CHARLES HILGENDORF
1980

Thomas, who has remained farming the original land has served on the School Committee, Hall Society, Young Farmers' and Tennis Club. His family of two daughters and two sons attended Lauriston School, one son, Mark in 1980 purchasing the old "Hughenden" homestead. The other son, Richard farming with his father and presently serving on the School Committee, has two sons attending Lauriston School, a direct line of four generations from 1884 to 1983.

J. W. Maidens

John William Maidens (1843-1916) and his wife Emma (nee Chisnall) 1845-1931, immigrated to N.Z. on the ship "Glenmark" arriving in Lyttelton on 21 January, 1865.

They had quite an eventful passage out to N.Z. While sailing along the coast of South Africa, the cantankerous captain refused to listen to reason—as a result the ship was drifting towards the beach. All her sails went slack and there was panic among the passengers as it hit the sand. Natives were seen paddling swiftly out from shore. Stationed around the bulwarks with fire-arms and cutlasses, the ship's defenders, threatened to shoot any native approaching. Fortunately the wind held fair and eventually the "Glenmark" came off the sand, unharmed.

Another very pathetic incident happened when the vessel was about to sail from the London docks. A woman passenger came aboard with two small children. After an examination, by the ship's doctor, it was discovered that both children had scarlet fever and were promptly sent ashore with their mother. The woman was in despair, as her husband already in N.Z., had paid for her passage and she had no more funds. Departing for the city, she returned to the ship in less than an hour, explaining that she had left her children with her sister. Sometime afterwards, en route to N.Z. the woman confessed that she had abandoned her children in the streets of London. The horror of it began to prey on her mind — how could she face her husband?



JOHN AND EMMA MAIDENS

And their four youngest children Maria, Ada, Priscilla and Maud (old pupils), photographed before leaving "Tiverton" for 2 years in England, 1893, they returned to Lauriston in 1895

Nearing N.Z. the half demented woman threw herself into the sea. Attempts to rescue her proved futile.

John and Emma Maidens began their pioneering life in Canterbury and settled in West Melton where six of their 11 children were born. In 1877 and until 1885 they farmed on their 500 acres farm at Seafeld. They sold and shifted to "Tiverton", Lauriston, in 1885 and as there is no record of John owning the land, he must have leased the 1,000 acres.

John Maidens was elected on the Lauriston School Committee in October, 1886 until 1890. In that year 1890, John, his wife and four daughters went to England for $2\frac{1}{2}$ years. Returning in February, 1893, to

Lauriston, John was again elected on to the School Committee for a further two years. Charles and George Maidens (sons of John) both served on the Lauriston School Committee. George's children, Clarice and Joffre attended Lauriston School. John was a lay reader in the Wesleyan Church. They left "Tiverton" in 1895.

Oddly enough, after 44 years and changing hands several times, "Tiverton" came back into the Maidens family when Maude and Vernon Boag bought it in 1939.

A. T. Maidens

Arthur Thomas Maidens, fifth child of John and Emma Maidens, enrolled at the Lauriston School in 1885 at the age of 12. (He had received schooling at Seafield prior to this.)

Arthur bought his first farm at Mitcham (Middlemiss' today) in 1898 and in 1899 he married Louise Dingle (Christchurch). In 1905 Arthur bought "Smithfield", a 700 acre farm and built a new house on it (Peter Letham's today). Arthur served on the Lauriston School Committee from 1904 until 1933. He was Chairman from 1906 to 1909 and from 1929-1931. Arthur and Louise had seven of a family, two sons and five daughters, and all attended the Lauriston School.

We are told that Louise took a lively interest in local socials. She enjoyed hostessing parties, encouraged by Arthur. They conducted dancing classes for all age groups. Louise and her sister Pansy (Mrs H. J. Crothers) often sang duets and solos, while Arthur frequently danced the jig, even at the age of 70. Cards and string tricks he performed with ease.

Over the years Arthur raced a number of trotters with success. In the early 1920's "Red Mac" a red hot favourite, to win the N.Z. Trotting Cup, died mysteriously days before the Cup! Arthur had been offered one thousand pounds for "Red Mac" prior to the race! Leicester became a successful horse trainer. One horse, Blue Mountain got 2nd in the N.Z. Trotting Cup in 1934. Indianapolis won the race and Harold Logan was 3rd. Blue Mountain won the Auckland Trotting Cup in 1935.

In 1914 Arthur installed a petrol lighting system called "the wizard" and the wiring was in pipes throughout the house at "Smithfield". The mantles, the unprotected light, were priced at one shilling each, and if a blow-fly flew into it, it would fuse! Electricity was a milestone! The "turning on" ceremony was in W. W. Goodwin's grainshed in 1924.

The shearing was done with a petrol-driven portable "Little Wonder" machine. A shearer worked each side of this upright plant — outside, too if required. In 1924 a two-stand Worsley electric-driven machine was installed. This same machine is still in full use at David Irwin's (Arthur's grandson).

A bad year in 1936 did not deter Arthur from buying the usual 2,000 store lambs at 6/- each the next year. With an abundance of feed, the grass was high and rank, with the result he lost 1,300 lambs from ill-thrift over a

period of two months. Instead of becoming depressed Arthur promptly ploughed in two paddocks, each of one hundred and twenty acres, of this rank grass. This helped the soil content thus enabling good crops of grain to be harvested later. Arthur maintains that it was one of his best years financially!

Incidentally it is interesting to note that the Maidens family have been involved in the Lauriston School for five generations. Firstly, John Maidens was on the School Committee from 1886-1895. Arthur was enrolled a pupil in 1885 and a Committee member in 1904 until 1933. His daughter, Dorothy Irwin attended Lauriston School from 1920 to 1929. Her son, David attended school from 1952 to 1960 and now his son, Hamish is a pupil.

H. J. Crothers

Herbert Crothers who bought a subdivision of "Oakwood" in 1912 was greatly involved with the affairs of the Lauriston district and the county. He was a member of the Rakaia Road Board during its existence from 1920 to 1924. Herbert was elected a member of the Ashburton County Council from 1925 to 1944. He was Chairman from 1938 to 1940.

During his term of office as Chairman, the present Rakaia River bridge was completed and opened in March 1939, by Hon. R. Semple. Herbert spoke over the radio (a rare event in those days) on behalf of the Ashburton County Council, congratulating Mr Semple, contractors and staff on their fine effort.

Another highlight of Mr and Mrs H. Crothers life during his Chairmanship was a dinner and welcome to Lord and Lady Mountbatten.

Herbert was Chairman of the Lauriston School Committee from 1919 to 1924. He was the first Chairman of the Lauriston Soldiers' Memorial Hall, opened 20 December, 1929.

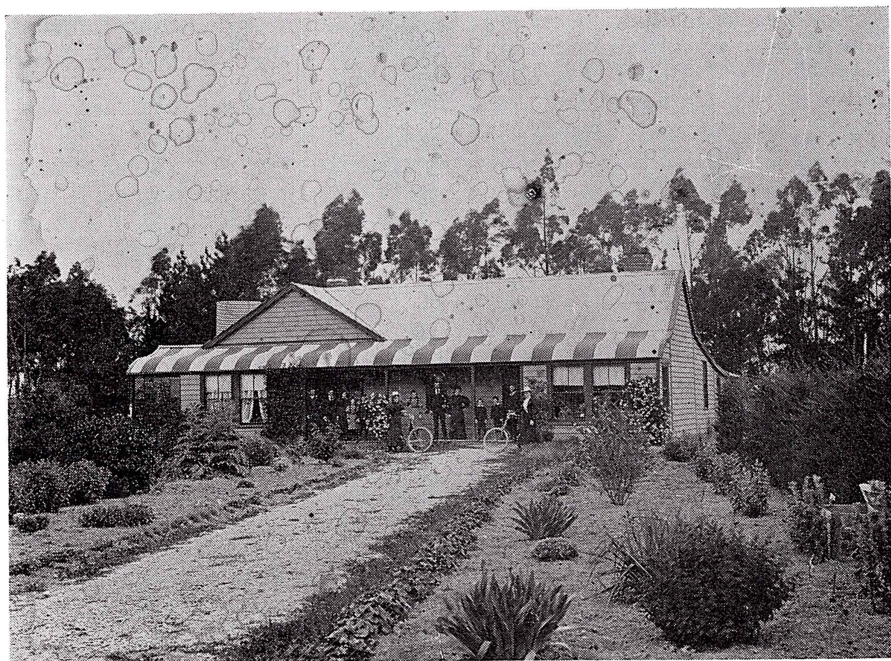
Urrall Settlement

Peter Drummond and his wife Helen bought this Lyndhurst Estate in 1889. Their children went to the Lauriston School. He died in 1916 at the age of 69. His eye-catching marble headstone in the Rakaia cemetery remains as his memorial. In 1920 the Crown bought this property for soldiers. Six settled on 300 acres each, namely George Franks, Fred Franks, Arthur Collett, Owen Symes, Steve Ashworth and Tom Greenaway.

In 1945 the first three farmers pulled out, and the three remaining men increased their acreage to almost 500 acres each. The Symes block, (son Wilfred acquired it after Owen) is owned by Lincoln College today, and the Harry Greenaway block John and Donald Ingold own today. The Ashworth property is farmed by Wally and Warren Ashworth.

David Wylie

Samuel Cox was a first day pupil at the Lauriston School in 1883, at the age of 13. We presume he and his parents lived at "Shropshire Downs" on the Urrall Road. Jack Mounsey, who had a farm next door, says that Sam Cox was an elderly gentleman when he arrived in the district in 1941. Sam died at the age of 70 in 1942.



Mr. PETER DRUMMON'S URRALL RESIDENCE, 1896

George and May Scarth, both Scottish, acquired it in 1943. Their four daughters, Rhona, Laura, Alison and Lynda attended Lauriston School. George was a member of the Lauriston School Committee, an elder of the Lauriston Presbyterian Church and Chairman of the Provincial Executive of Federated Farmers. May Scarth was an active member of the C.W.I. and A.P.W. In the early 1950's George started planting shelter belts of cedar, lawsoniana and thuya trees, being one of the first in the district to do so. The property now has plantings of these trees around each boundary.

David Wylie bought this farm from George Scarth in 1974. David changed the name of the property to "Gatten Park". His Southdown stud sheep are well known throughout New Zealand, frequently topping the sales.

Bill Sides

This soldier settlement, on the Line Road, west of the township became available in 1921.

Roy Sides acquired it in 1922. Roy married Lily McPhail and she was an old pupil of the Lauriston School. (Her father, W. McPhail, of Mitcham, was a member of the Lauriston School Committee.) In 1970, their son G. W. (Bill) Sides bought it. Now, the fourth generation, Bill's children, attend the school.

Max Fyfe

Colin A. Fyfe acquired the neighbouring settlement in 1921. Colin was Chairman of the Lauriston School Committee from 1932-41. He was a foundation member of the Lauriston Hall Society and Tennis Club. Both Mr and Mrs Fyfe entered whole-heartedly into the affairs of the district.

In 1952 Max Fyfe, their son, acquired it and farms it today.

Max recalls that the race track that Jock Smith established in 1912 has gone but the little entrance gate into the racecourse still remains on his farm, opposite the Lauriston railways goods shed. Max coached the school rugby team for many years likewise coaching the Rakaia senior rugby team. The team won the Mid Canterbury competition three years in succession under his tuition.

Terry Hart

Frank Hill farmed the soldier settlement west of Bill Sides from 1921-25. Jim Law bought it in 1925.

Ian Hart acquired it in 1939 and the government valuation of the 350 acres, in those depression years, was £400. Ian was a member of the Lauriston School Committee and is a member of the Ashburton Electric Power Board and its Chairman from 1966 until 1980.

Ian's son, Terry farms it today and he, likewise was a member of the Lauriston School Committee and Chairman from 1977 to 1979.

A. L. Kerslake

J. Whearty acquired the fourth soldier settlement of this block in 1921, living in the old homestead which was opposite K. Daley's entrance. Later a new house was built on the same side as Daley's, further up the road. It is now owned by A. L. Kerslake, who runs a trotting establishment. Previous owners of this property have been McLennan, Briggs Bros., and G. Tilson. Over the road opposite Kerslake's, J. Shimmin built that house and lived there, then Derek Curd, followed by B. Wendelgelst and today Kerry O'Reilly—a roving blacksmith.

David McLaughlin

Mr and Mrs W. W. Goodwin owned this Urrall block of 400 acres in 1901, then in 1906 Bert Reesby acquired it. Bob Fletcher farmed it from 1919 to 1935 when Tom McLaughlin bought it and farmed it until he died in 1941. The Estate of Tom McLaughlin's took over until David, the eldest of Tom's four sons, acquired it in 1958. David built a new house in 1977. His brother John farms the adjacent property across the road.

Trevor Curd

George Murdoch settled in Lauriston in 1903 and was a member of the Lauriston School Committee. George was a member of the Ashburton

County Council from 1911-17 and from 1920-23. In 1906 he sold out to Archie McCormick. Archie was a member of the Lauriston School Committee. In 1937 Marcus Curd bought it. He was an auditor for the Anglican Church books for many years. Today, Trevor, their older son farms this property. (In 1976 it was subdivided and Anthony Hampton bought 300 acres off the original block.) Trevor is on the present School Committee.

Alwyne Bliss

Patrick McNeill bought this farm on Orr's Road of 400 acres in 1906. Patrick was a member of the Lauriston School Committee, and their children attended Lauriston School. Kevin, their younger son farmed it until the early 1950's. G. Blair acquired it next, building a new home on the Lauriston-Barrhill Road. A. Bliss and family bought the property in 1979.

Tony Pannett

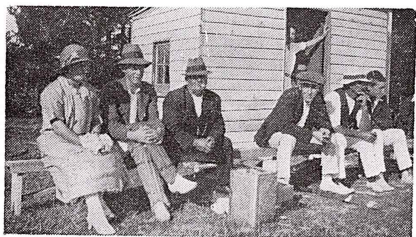
This property known as "Tiverton" of 1,000 acres was part of the Corwar Run. John W. Maidens leased "Tiverton" from the Estate of Robert McKerrow and John Mann (South Rakaia farmers) from 1885 until 1895. James Johnston ("Tiptree") and his son Patrick L. Johnston owned this farm from 1895 to 1907.

David Fechny, the younger, ("the younger" is stated on every deed) farmed there from 1907 until 1920. Thomas Payne was the next owner for 19 years. In 1939 Vernon Boag purchased the property. Vernon and Maude Boag built a new home in 1961. They retired to Ashburton in 1969. Their son, Peter Boag, farmed it until 1980 when A. Pannett from Southland bought it. It is interesting to note that in 1879, A. Pannett's grandfather H. Pannett was on the first committee of the Mt. Hutt Road Board (recorded elsewhere) and his address was Barrhill!

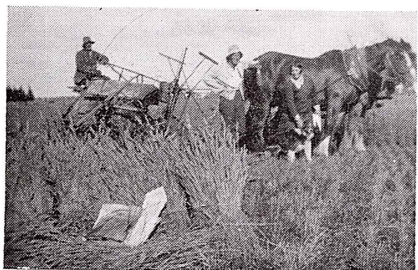
T. N. Davison

Jock Smith bought "Tiptree" in 1902 from J. A. Johnston. Jock immediately changed the name of the farm to "The Grange". He was a trotting enthusiast and he established a race track. Race meetings were held there and special trains ran from Christchurch and Ashburton for these races bringing the horses, as well as passengers for the big events. W. T. Lowe, a well known horse trainer, owner and breeder lived at "Oakwood" (McEvedy's cottage today). "Bushranger" was one of his well known sires then. T. Hickman trained and broke-in horses and lived behind the old school in the village of Lauriston. So the trotting fraternity was very much alive! At one of these race meetings, A. T. Maidens raced a horse called "Speculation" (the dam of "Red Mac" that he'd been offered one thousand pounds for). Speculation won the race! The horses were ridden at these meetings!

The government bought "The Grange" for soldier settlements from Jock Smith in 1920 for £21 an acre — a very good price for those days. Jim



VIEWING CRICKET AT LAURISTON, 1920's
Maude Maidens, —, A. T. Maidens, —, W. W. Goodwin, Ossie Gray



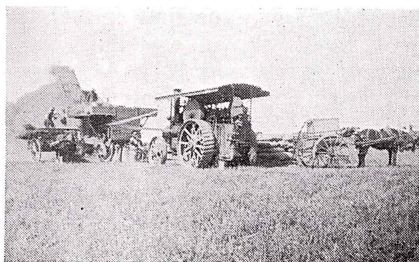
REG MAIDENS REAPING WHEAT, 1930



**T. STAPLETON'S TRUCKS AT
G. W. SCARTH'S, 1947**



**JOHN IRWIN
RAKAIA PLOUGHING MATCH, 1936
1st THREE HORSE TEAM**



McINTYRE'S MILL AT J. HAMPTON'S, 1930



**A. T. MAIDENS AT WHEEL IN HIS FIRST
CAR, 1910**



**FORREST AND SELWYN LETHAM IN " DRY
CREEK " FLOOD, 1945
LINE ROAD AND THOMPSON'S TRACK**



LAURISTON CHURCH, 1945 SNOWSTORM

McQuilkin was the first soldier to farm there. Keith Smith (no relation to Jock Smith above) was the next occupier from 1946 until 1967. Charlie Stewart purchased "The Grange" in 1967 but renamed the property "Brentwood". Charlie sold in 1981 to T. N. Davison.

Kevin Daley

This estate, "Rosedale" was one of the first selected in the Lauriston district. It was first owned by Patrick and Robert Laurie, in 1877. The farm passed through various owners, Widdowson, a Lauriston School Committee member, being one.

Alex Drummond, eldest son of Peter Drummond of "Corwar" bought it in 1900, 1,240 acres in all. Alex built a new concrete house, which Kevin and Margaret Daley and family live in today. Marcus Curd says that Tom Gray carted the shingle in horse and drays from the Ashburton River for the Drummond house. (Tom lived in a house, now demolished, opposite Daley's entrance.)

Alex was a member of the Lauriston School Committee for many years and Chairman from 1910-1914. He was elected a member of the Ashburton County Council from 1914-1920 and Chairman in 1920 (for 8 months).

He sold "Rosedale" to the government in 1920 for soldier settlements and J. B. Daley settled there. Jerry Daley and his wife had 10 children, five boys and five girls. All attended Lauriston School. Jerry was a member of the School Committee. Kevin, Jerry's youngest son, took over the farm, in 1956 and his children attended the school.

Rodger Letham

Donald Ross, from Argyll, Scotland bought this farm in 1877. He was a staunch supporter of the Lauriston Presbyterian Church, and a member of the Lauriston School Committee being Chairman 1892-1896 (Donald Ross's eldest son Charles married Ella Letham, eldest daughter of Andrew Letham, Sherwood, in 1912). In 1900 the farm was sold to Bill Buchan and it changed hands several times until F. E. Amos bought it in 1919. C. Norrish farmed there from 1924-29, then F. Amos returned briefly. V. W. Boag owned it from 1930-35 and F. Amos returned again and sold it in 1951 to Selwyn Letham, a grandson of Andrew Letham of Sherwood.

Selwyn was a member of the Lauriston School Committee, and both he and his wife Ida, were stalwart members of Lauriston Church. Selwyn was on the Ashburton County Council 1962-1980 and Chairman 1973-1977. In 1981 his son Rodger acquired "Kilsyth". Rodger is Chairman of the Lauriston School Committee and Chairman of the Centennial Committee. He is an elder of the Presbyterian Church, and on the Methven High School Board of Governors.

D. C. Butterick

Hart Brothers were the first owners of this property. It was subdivided in 1912 and W. Dalzell acquired it, followed by D. D. McFarlane in 1928. In 1931 Ewart Doak bought an adjoining property, then in 1942 Ewart bought D. D. McFarlane's. The Doaks entered into the affairs of the district. In 1964 Ewart Doak sold the farm to Calder Butterick, who farms it today.

Eion Gibson

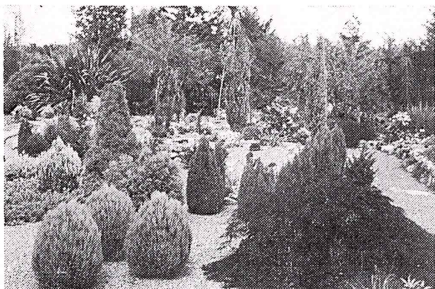
Backing onto Butterick's farm is Eion Gibson's. In 1894 Con O'Sullivan bought this farm for £4 an acre. He and Mrs O'Sullivan had nine children and they all attended Lauriston School. Con O'Sullivan was quite a character. One story that is rather appealing — Con was drafting sheep in the sheep yards on a very hot day. A salesman called in to see him and asked "Are you Mr O'Sullivan?" "No," was the reply. "I'm the dog! That's Mr O'Sullivan under the spring cart."

W. Penney bought "Matipo", as it was called, for £8 an acre, in 1928. His son Reg Penney bought it in 1947 and Eion Gibson bought it in 1965 and farms it today.

D. C. Butterick

In 1871 James Dent acquired the block on the south side of the village of Lauriston, 1,164 acres in all. The original wooden homestead (raised on to piles in 1912) built by Dent, still stands, visible from the township. (Today it is occupied by E. H. Gibbs.)

James Dent was an inaugural member of the Lauriston School Committee in 1882. His younger son, Thomas, a pupil of the Barrhill School in 1882, took over the farm in 1896 buying another 1,000 acres — namely "Smithfield". He, too, was a member of the Lauriston School Committee and Chairman from 1904-06. Thomas Dent sold to W. W. Goodwin in 1906. Calder Butterick owns it today.



J. Le COMTE'S ALOUETTE NURSERY
Established 1957



BILL McCONNELL HAYMAKING
Bill is the last Soldier from the 2nd World War, on his rehab. block in the Lauriston area

Peter Letham

A. T. Maidens sold "Smithfield" of 1,100 acres in 1947 to the Lands and Survey Department, which divided it into soldier settlement farms.

Clarence McManus lived at "Smithfield" and managed and organised these for 10 years. G. Taylor farmed it for about 15 years, Peter Letham bought it in 1972 and farms it today. G. McRobb settled on his subdivision of 300 acres in 1947. L. Smith acquired it next and D. McDonald farms it today, a Jersey dairy farm.

Donald Robertson's and John Hampton's farms (Flay's today — T. Mitchell's previously), were also bought by the Government in 1947. J. Ainge settled on part of Robertson's and in 1968 sold it to P. and H. I. Sankey. A. Gordon sold to D. H. McFarlane in 1970 (G. Letham's today). W. Trezise sold to Ian Hood, N. Carney sold to H. N. Flay (K. Wheeler manages the property) and W. H. McConnell, another returned serviceman is the only one left farming on his original block.

J. Le Comte, Chairman of Lauriston School 1971-73, has owned a nursery on Dromore Road for several years, specializing in alpine garden species.

R. Röss

George F. Church built the two storeyed house (which now houses two vintage cars). G. F. Church was on the Lauriston School Committee from 1896 until 1906, and their children attended Lauriston School.

David Letham came next and when the farms were bought by the Government for returned soldiers in 1919, W. E. Smith (Nugget) became the next owner. He was on the School Committee and their two sons, Wilfred and Duncan, attended Lauriston School.

Harry Chapman farmed it next, then came D. Withell. Rob Ross owns it today, and built a new home in 1974.

Bevan Crozier

A soldier settlement farm, A. R. Rushton acquired it in 1921 and sold it to Reg Maidens in 1931. In 1968, Reg Maidens sold it to Bevan Crozier (his nephew). Bevan has built a new house on it. He is a member of the present Lauriston School Committee, and Cherry, his wife, was an infant mistress at the Lauriston School from 1970-72.

C. J. Begg

Roland Letham farmed at "Ranui" until his death in 1926. After his father's death, Forrest, at the age of 17, managed the "Ranui" property and later farmed it on his own account.

Forrest was a foundation member of the Lauriston Farm Improvement Club and was a former Chairman of the Club. He was a member of the Board of Governors of St. Andrew's College and a Session Clerk of the Rakaia Parish of the Presbyterian Church. He served for 19 years as a member of

the Lauriston School Committee, and was Chairman for 12 of them. He was Chairman of the Committee responsible for the remodelling and extension of the Lauriston Hall. Forrest was a former Chairman of the Lauriston Branch of Federated Farmers, and a Justice of the Peace. Forrest and his wife Ena, had two sons, Roland and Alistair. "Ranui" was sold to C. J. Begg in 1973.

V. and K. McEvedy

"Oakwood" of 1,848 acres was part of the early "Lavington" Run. A syndicate of four farmers, including F. B. Passmore, farmed the Oakwood Est. "Oakwood" was rightly named as Passmore had planted rows of English trees, mostly Oaks. Most of these trees remain today.

Next came John Moore who took over "Oakwood" of 1,300 acres in 1897. Alex Drummond bought it next and his son-in-law W. T. Lowe lived there until the Government bought it in 1912. By this time the farm was down to 900 acres and the Government divided it into three farms. These farmers were H. J. Crothers, James Petrie and Hart Bros. James Petrie sold to George Maidens in 1919. George Stayt bought it in 1920. In 1925 A. R. C. Rushton bought it, then H. J. Crothers followed by H. T. Crothers. In 1954 V. McEvedy bought "Oakwood" and "Ashleigh" and V. McEvedy and his son Kelwyn farm it today.

Sherwood Soldiers' Settlement

In 1897 John Moore owned "Oakwood" and another property past the Sherwood railway station. The Lyttelton Harbour Board acquired it and leased it out, calling it "The Old Identity Endowment Lease", to Donald Spence. In 1947 it was subdivided for soldiers. Gordon Douglas settled on one (later David Hooper and today Les Rushton has that farm), Peter Hart settled on the second (today G. Hunt's), and Ross Anderson acquired the third (Guy Letham's today).

Corwar Owners

1852 Sir John Hall and his brothers owned the run Lendon (No. 116).

1853 Alexander Lean acquired it.

1867 William Dunford.

1870 John Cartcart Wason bought rural sections Nos. 26602 and 26603 of 20,000 acres. These were freehold but he leased more to make up the station he renamed "Corwar".

1900, 11 April: The certificate of title was transferred to P. Drummond, owner of the Lyndhurst Estate at Urrall. Subdivision of the run was made and the homestead block was taken up by John Wilson Drummond and later sold to R. G. McLean on 30 February, 1924.

1929, 17 September: J. H. Doak and A. Doak bought Corwar.

1934, 16 September: Repossessed by R. G. McLean.

1936, 23 September: Sold to Thomas Campbell and Ada McLachlan.

1951, 11 December: Taken over by Colin Campbell A. McLachlan.

1974: Corwar was sold to David N. Campion.

Balrazie

In 1872 Balrazie (then known as "Auchenflower"), comprising of 3,353 acres, was owned by Duncan McIlraith. He lived in Christchurch but spent periods on the farm. Duncan appointed Daniel Hurst as manager. It is noteworthy to record that Mr and Mrs McIlraith's small daughter hoisted the flag at the Peace Ceremony in Barrhill on 26 September, 1901.

In March 1914, the executors of the Estate of the brothers J. A. McIlraith and A. D. McIlraith offered 2,053 acres for subdivision, leaving the 1,300 acres of today's Balrazie. The following list comprises subdivision names: T. Clemens (Perry's today), O. E. Hooper (G. Campion today), Jerry Daley (now A. W. J. Hampton's), G. Farquhar (then Walter Lewis, now Kane Bros.), Roy Prebble (A. Farquhar, D. Campion, R. H. Negus, today G. Maginness), E. G. Hayward (their son, George and grandson, Wayne today).

Leonard White bought Balrazie in 1920 and sold it in 1929 to the brothers A. M. Stephens and H. T. Stephens. H. T. Stephens sold his half to J. G. Marshall in 1937 which he later sold to the present owner T. I. Perry, about 1945.

R. A. Stephens sold his part of Balrazie to C. Gray in 1963. C. Gray sold to O. E. Hooper in 1965 and he in turn sold it to the present owner Mervyn Maw in 1979.

At the northwest end of the Barrhill village are three properties, which have been in the same families for a considerable time.

Next to the village itself is "Poplar Grove" (appropriately named, since the road is lined with poplars). It was bought by Thomas Maw of Doyleston in 1925, and is now farmed by his son Gordon, and grandson Colin. Gordon was a pupil at Barrhill School.

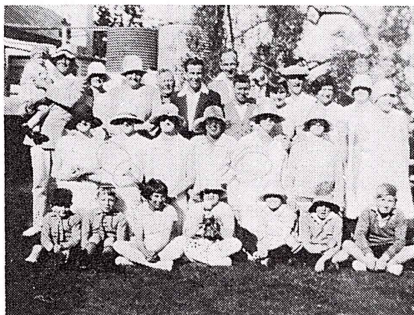
Across the road is "Garrickfield" bought by Robert Cairns of Wakanui in 1930, from C. A. Campion (whose son David, and grandson Graham farm the "Corwar" homestead block, today). Robert's son Graham now farms "Garrickfield". Robert, now 82, and his wife Margaret still live on this property.

On the northwest boundary of "Garrickfield" is "Creeseide" bought by Henry Dixon of Christchurch in 1920. Arthur, his son now farms this property, and he too attended Barrhill School. The name "Creeseide" is also appropriate, since the river Cree flows near the original Barrhill in Scotland.

David Irwin

On David's Barrhill property "Aldersyde" is an extremely interesting, well preserved shed. It was built about 1880, by Mr Wason, with galvanised iron walls and roof, and is 5,000 sq. ft in size. To resist the gale force nor'westers, galvanised screw nails were used in building. A washer was placed under the head of each nail, to give extra support.

This large shed was the "halfway camp" for teamsters and horses between Corwar homestead and Thompson's Track. In those days it consisted of a 16 horse stable, a cook house (the chimney was pulled down 35 years



LAURISTON TENNIS CLUB, 1929
Taken at "Smithfield"

Back Row : C. Fyfe, Max in arms, Mrs. Fyfe, Mrs. Maidens, A. Maidens, A. Farquhar, W. T. Church, C. McNeill, D. Maidens, R. Maidens, M. Cretney, K. McPhail, E. Maidens
Middle Row : M. Hampton, E. Letham, E. Lemon, M. Letham, A. Hampton, M. Lemon
Front Row : S. Fyfe, I. Cretney, B. Maidens, J. Lemon, J. Maidens, H. Farquhar



LAURISTON PLAYCENTRE, 1982

Adults : Valerie Clemens, Nicky Rollinson, Laura Cairns

Children from left : Matthew Rollinson, Kelly Clemens, Leonie Goodwin, Anna Spicer, Phillip Logan, Troy McEvedy

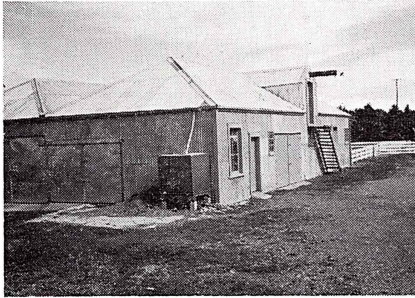
In Front : Neville Page, Keith Page

ago), sleeping and living quarters for the ploughmen, and a loft above for the chaff. The original steps up to the loft are still in use today. Attached to the back of the stable was (and still is) the shearing shed and shearers' quarters. Behind the shed was a 5,000 gallon underground concrete tank used to collect precious water for stockmen and stock alike.

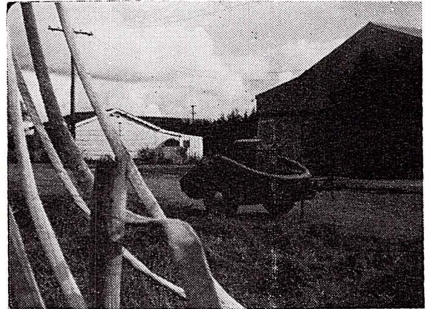
Every Sunday until the water races came through the teamsters had to cart water from the Ashburton River, 12 miles away. Galvanised tanks were carried in drays, drawn by draught horses for this purpose. Each horse was rationed to 8 gallons of water a day.

In the 1920's Mr Mercer Ward used to stay the night in this camp. Mr Ward, the traveller for Beaths, Christchurch, travelled around in this area in a horse and dog cart. The cart was similar to a bread van, enclosed with lids to protect his wares.

When Jack Irwin purchased "Aldersyde" in 1938, the timber of this shed was badly borer-eaten, especially the untreated pinus timber. All this has been replaced and borer treated. Names are engraved here and there in the wooden beams of previous farm owners of this century-old shed — namely Gemmells, Campbell, Watson, Turner and Kelly.



100 YEAR OLD WELL PRESERVED SHED ON
DAVID IRWIN'S PROPERTY "ALDESYDE"



LAURISTON FIRE UNIT

Farms subdivided on Marawiti Road (Back Track today)

The Marawiti settlement was a portion of the Corwar Estate, purchased from J. C. Wason, under the Land for Settlement Act in 1897. At that time it had been partly subdivided by wire and gorse fences and had all been cultivated and wheat and oats harvested. Plantations of pinus, macrocarpa, silver birch, oaks and other trees were already well established. Every section was well watered by County Council races at 9d per annum per chain of race rates.

In the area between Cathcart Road (now Accommodation Road) and the Lauriston-Barrhill Road, there were nine farms varying from 25-330 acres, the whole area totalling 1,150 acres. The names of the first leasees from the Crown, starting from Accommodation Road, were William Stockdale, John O'Connell, Christina Schmidt, G. Collison, Margaret Cronin, William Penney, Fred Bay, J. Blain, T. Ivess.

The Stockdale property later belonged to Len Richards then W. Hampton while today it is owned by the estate of John Hampton. The farm lower down today belongs to Leslie Maw. A. V. Fairey owned the next one followed by J. L. de Beer, and then Noel McLaughlin, and in 1982 it was bought by Robert Hampton. James Clinton bought Schmidt's property and his son Bill farmed it until 1960 when it was bought by A. W. J. Hampton. The other small blocks were gradually amalgamated and now belong to A. W. J. Hampton and sons.

ORGANIZATIONS

LAURISTON TENNIS CLUB

A meeting of those interested in the formation of a Tennis Club at Lauriston was held in the Lauriston School room on 6 November, 1929. It was convened by Mr W. T. Church, the headmaster of that time. From this meeting, the club which we have today was formed.

The foundation members of the Club were: S. G. Lemon, P. McNeill, A. T. Maidens, C. A. Fyfe, May Letham, Forrest Letham, May and Ann Hampton, W. T. Church, A. Farquhar. Over the first few seasons, club members, not having their own courts, travelled to, and played on the privately owned courts of P. McNeill, A. T. Maidens and S. G. Lemon. Competition matches were also played on these courts against teams from Lyndhurst, Rokeby and Winchmore.

In the latter part of the 1930's a chipped court was sited next to the Lauriston Hall. A few years later a grass court was laid on the site of today's Playcentre ground. In 1934 the chipped court was sealed by club members and it was played on regularly until 1939 when World War II put the club into recess until 1946/47 season.

An interclub competition, known as the Tucker Rosebowl, was formed in 1956. Teams from Lauriston, Winchmore, Highbank, Lyndhurst, Rokeby and Chertsey played against each other over each season for the trophy.

For the first time, the club entered a team in the Mid Canterbury Lawn Tennis Sub-Association competitions for the 1971 season and has continued to have teams representing it regularly, ever since.

During the 1974/75 season club members began raising funds to build a new court complex. On the 14th April, 1976 a special general meeting was convened by the President, Ian Fyfe and Secretary, Ross McConnell. Plans and construction were discussed for two concrete tennis courts, to be laid across the way from the hall. This was on land between the schoolhouse and the cricket pavilion, that had been vested in the Lauriston Hall Society many years previously. From the special meeting a sub-committee, comprising of Ian Fyfe, Ross McConnell, J. Leonard and T. Lemon was formed to look closer at any construction problems, and do initial organising.

A second meeting of interested club members and the sub-committee was convened in early June where reports were given by Ian Fyfe, who had spoken to Brambles-Burnetts and received a quote of \$27 per cubic yard for reinforced concrete. Finally it was decided to lay only one court during 1976 and if funds were available, the second court was to be laid the following year. Excavation of the court site was carried out by Crums and W. Ashworth kindly loaned the club his grader. This was completed by the autumn of 1977, when the first court was laid, followed about 12 months later by the second court.

Total construction cost for both courts was just over \$6,600. The bulk of this money was raised by a concentrated hay carting effort organised by

Colin Clemens over two seasons. Presently the club has approximately 50 members and has teams representing it in most senior and junior competition grades.

Lauriston Tennis Club Presidents since 1973: T. Curd 1973-74, I. Fyfe 1975, C. Clemens 1976-77-78, G. Freear 1979-80, R. McConnell 1981-83.

Secretaries: Ian Fyfe 1973, R. McConnell 1974-75-76-77-78 and 1979, B. Leonard 1980-83.

BARRHILL TENNIS CLUB

The Barrhill Tennis Club was formed in 1929. At the inaugural meeting were Messrs A. Holmes (President), V. Fairey, T. Maw, G. Gemmell, R. Gemmell, C. Clemens, C. A. Campion, H. Stephens, Dickson, J. Bishop, E. Hayward, Doak, Reid, McNicol, Farquhar, Hooper, Mesdames Campion, Fairey, Tizzard, Toon, Holmes, Bishop, Leaman, Miss Robertson (Secretary) and Miss Gemmell.

There was a large crowd present on Opening day, 19 October, 1929. Mrs Holmes and Mrs Campion hit the first balls on the chipped court sited on the school grounds. Play was permitted on Sundays, outside church hours. It was agreed in 1932, that the court be reclayed and oiled with waste-oil and marked with hoop iron.

In 1935 the President, P. Clinton reported that the school court was no: available. Another site became available when Mr Crowe sold section 8 (corner Sycamore Avenue and River Road) for £18.

The last recorded meeting was on 23 September, 1937 — President, C. Cone; Vice-Presidents, J. Marshall, C. C. A. McLachlan, A. Holmes, O. E. Hooper, V. Fairey, E. G. Hayward, H. Dixon, R. Cairns; Secretaries, A. Leadley and S. Drew. Subscriptions still 2/6 a member — 34 financial members.

LAURISTON LADIES' HOCKEY CLUB

At a well attended inaugural meeting held at Lauriston in 1926, the ladies formed a Hockey Club. Miss E. Bayliss (infant mistress at the school) was elected captain with Edith Maidens as secretary.

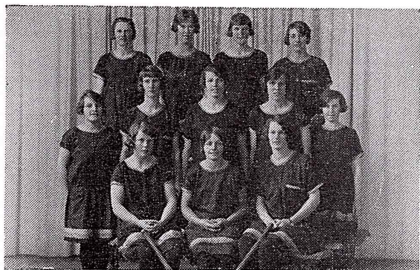
Games and practices were played on Mr W. W. Goodwin's property, where the Cricket Club also had its playing field. With her well known hospitality and generosity Mrs W. Goodwin regularly supplied afternoon tea after the matches, carrying out a four gallon bucket of scalding tea.

The team played in the Ashburton competitions meeting teams from Hinds, Methven, Mt. Somers, Rakaia and Wakanui. Margaret Goodwin was also a staunch supporter of the club, and J. Jacobs (blacksmith) acted as coach in the initial years. Mr W. T. Church coached the team during the years he taught at Lauriston.

The Lauriston team had much success over the years, in 1931 they won the competition in their grade and were successful in the six-a-side tournaments in 1926 and 1927. Several of the members were chosen to represent

the County, Sally Law, Edna Lemon, Ella Letham, Jean McCormick, Miss E. Bayliss, Eileen Maidens.

In 1932 Ashburton formed its own association after being under the jurisdiction of the Canterbury Association for a few years. During the years that Lauriston played in the competitions, there were 35 members.



LAURISTON LADIES' HOCKEY, 1929

Back Row : Marion Letham, Ann Hampton,
Ella Letham, Alma Blain
Middle Row : Eileen Maidens, Marjory Lemon,
Jean Letham, May Letham, Erin McNeill
Front Row : Jessie McPhail, Sally Law,
Edna Lemon



BARRHILL HOCKEY TEAM, 1946

Back : S. Ashworth (President), J. Dixon, A.
Bennett, S. Letham, F. Clemens, D. Smith
Front : O. Hurst, J. Mounsey, Ross Sloper
(Captain, C. Limbrick, A. Maw, J. McManus



BARRHILL - ROKEBY TEAM

Standing : J. Dixon, E. Cromie, G. Maw, G. Hayward,
D. Penney, D. Middlemiss
Sitting : Mr. Drew (Barrhill Coach), G. McLean
(Captain), Mr. Cromie (Rokeby Coach)



LAURISTON SCHOOL, 1933

Winners Rakaiia, Ashburton, Methven,
Connolly Relay Cups, and Mt. Hutt
Seven-A-Side Rugby Shield
Back Row : L. Cornwall, T. Dalgety,
G. Anderson, S. Lemon, R. Blain
Front Row : F. Dixon, D. Lemon
(Captain), M. Anderson

BARRHILL HOCKEY CLUB

The Barrhill Men's Hockey Club was originally formed by Ross Sloper and Jack Mounsey in 1945. The first President was Steve Ashworth and the players came from the Barrhill and Lauriston district.

The two teams practised on the cricket ground kindly lent by Alex Goodwin. Their competition matches were played in Ashburton and six-a-side tournaments were played in Methven as well.

LAURISTON RURAL FIRE UNIT

The inaugural meeting of the Lauriston Rural Fire Unit was held in the Lauriston Hall at 8 p.m., on 7 December 1972. Those present were J. Wright, J. R. Leonard, K. J. Daley, C. Butterick, G. Hayward, J. Lee, T. Curd, R. Lemon, L. Smart, Councillors S. J. Letham and J. Irwin, D. G. Thomson (County Engineer). Apology from P. Sankey.

Chaired by Mr Letham, he stated that the Gwynne Trailer pump had become available from the Methven Urban Fire Brigade. After a complete check over the unit was completed with a second hand canvas hose. The committee was responsible for the operation of it, a system of supervision and maintenance and practices to familiarize every member how to use it, were to be held.

The election of officers resulted in: President, John Wright; Secretary, J. R. Leonard and all members mentioned above.

A canvass of residents of the Lauriston and Barrhill district proved very successful with \$775 collected in 1973.

To mention one of their most arduous fire fighting ordeals. During the severe north west gale on 31 July 1975, the brigade, with John Leonard, as fire officer, was called out at 6 p.m. to David Champion's, Corwar. They fought that fire, that had reached a neighbour's plantation until after 9 p.m. That same night, at 2.30 a.m. 1 August (will we ever forget it) again a plantation was alight on Ian Hart's property at Urrall. This task took 6 hours to extinguish. Both these fires were fought under very severe and dangerous conditions.

In 1978, second hand protective clothing had been supplied from the Fire Council, at no cost.

After seven years as Chairman, K. Daley sent in his resignation. T. Curd was elected Chairman in 1981 and 1982, and J. R. Leonard again elected Secretary-Treasurer. The Committee: L. Quigley, W. Sides, K. Daley, T. Curd and Bruce Leonard. G. W. Sides was elected Chairman in 1983.

FARMERS' UNION

The Lauriston Branch of the Farmers' Union was formed at Lauriston on Friday, 6 March, 1925. Twelve farmers were present at the first meeting when it was resolved to form a Farmers' Union in the Lauriston district. The following officers were elected: Chairman, W. W. Goodwin; Vice-Chairman, W. McPhail; Secretary, R. H. Maidens; Treasurer, H. T. Crothers. It was decided to hold meetings alternately at Lauriston, Rokeby, Rakaia and Barrhill. Membership grew to 66 in 1936.

The financial statement showed that the position of the branch was sound with a credit balance of £13.8.0 for the year 1938.

It was 16 January, 1946 that the Lauriston Branch of the Farmers' Union went into recess indefinitely until the newly formed Federated Farmers

was in a position to take full action. It was some six months previous to this that a meeting was called to consider forming a new branch of Federated Farmers of N.Z. The following farmers were present at this meeting on the 6 July, 1945 in the Lauriston Hall—T. V. Wilkinson, A. M. Stephens, R. H. Maidens, G. Clelland, R. E. Cairns, C. Hilgendorf, F. Amos, W. Penney, H. T. Crothers, J. R. Mounsey, L. Blain, F. Hampton, E. G. Hayward, F. T. Clemens, R. F. Letham, R. B. Knight, V. W. Boag, J. Crozier, D. Barclay, W. Honeywell, A. Letham, J. G. Marshall, J. Lochhead, A. McRobb, V. Fairey, G. Farquhar, P. A. Goodwin, G. W. Scarth, J. H. Dixon. It was moved by T. V. Wilkinson that a branch of Federated Farmers be formed in the Lauriston district This was seconded by R. Middlemiss and carried unanimously.

The following officers were elected: President, J. G. Marshall; Senior Vice-President, T. V. Wilkinson; Junior Vice-President, C. Hilgendorf; Secretary, R. F. Letham; Treasurer, F. E. Amos. All farmers present agreed to join the Federated Farmers.

The branch has 89 members at present, 1982. The present Chairman is Brian Reesby and Secretary, Ray Logan.

Members of the Lauriston Branch who have held Executive positions with Mid Canterbury Federated Farmers: C. HILGENDORF—Meat and Wool Section Chairman 1945-47, Provincial President 1947-51, N.Z. Meat Producers' Board 1961-80, Chairman 1972-80; G. W. SCARTH—Meat and Wool Section Chairman 1955-58; J. C. INGOLD—Meat and Wool Section Chairman 1979; J. E. WATSON—Dairy Section Chairman 1980.

THE COUNTRY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE IN LAURISTON AND BARRHILL

The first meeting in the district was held in the Vestry of the Lauriston Presbyterian Church on 22 July 1931, when Miss E. Stopps, Dominion Organiser, spoke, stressing that the aim of the movement was to improve and develop conditions of rural life.

The foundation members of the Lauriston C.W.I. present were: Mesdames H. J. Crothers, W. D. Brunsden, C. Fyfe, A. Rushton, W. Gimson, W. T. Church, R. Bebbington, J. Whearty, H. T. Crothers, V. Boag, F. Cork, J. Hillyer, J. Daley, W. Smith, T. Stapleton, Misses V. Lemon, M. Hampton, E. Cretney, E. Maidens, M. Letham, C. Murray, A. Hampton, M. Lemon, L. Letham. The first Committee formed was; Mrs H. J. Crothers, President; Miss E. Maidens, Secretary; Mesdames Fyfe, Boag, Brunsden, Church, Daley, Miss M. Lemon.

The Barrhill members at this first meeting on 22 July, 1931 were Mesdames J. Doak (Corwar), O. E. Hooper, Gemmell, Gilmour (R. Cairns cottage), Misses J. Hayward, J. Clements, M. Farquhar, E. McNeill, Mrs Doak as President and Miss J. Hayward, Secretary. According to J. Hayward (as

the minute books are missing) the meetings were held in the Barrhill School-room and were initially well attended. Owing to lack of support however the C.W.I. at Barrhill was terminated in about 1937, and Miss Hayward and Mesdames J. G. Marshall and J. Hall attended Lauriston C.W.I.

The C.W.I. began in the days of the depression and large quantities of groceries and produce were donated by the Lauriston C.W.I. members to the Salvation Army for distribution. Competitions of that era included an article made from a sugar bag, an old felt hat and home-made soap. Arts and crafts of the day were demonstrated, poker work, painting on velvet, brush and glove making, and pine needle basket making.

The annual birthday party, an evening social held in August, was a highlight for Lauriston residents. At the 2nd birthday party in August 1932 a male quartette performed. The singers were Mr W. Gimson (President's husband), Mr W. Church (School Master), Mr H. T. Crothers (Past President's husband) and Mr C. Fyfe (Vice-President's husband).

The war effort of the Lauriston C.W.I. was remarkable. Parcels were sent to local men overseas every three months, and cakes at Christmas time. Competitions were geared to the war effort — 18 sleeveless pullovers were made and sent to the Lady Galway Guild. The C.W.I. ladies collected scrap metal for the National Scrap Metal Drive in 1941, using a horse and dray. In December 1941, the C.W.I. presented one of their members, Miss Edna Lemon, with a leather suitcase before she left for overseas service. A letter of thanks for their excellent response to all wartime appeals was received in 1945 from the Hon. D. G. Sullivan.

With the tension and anxiety of the war over members put renewed vigour into their activities. The Drama Club, mentioned elsewhere, really flourished and the Adult Education Dept. brought lectures on dressmaking, millinery, interior decorating, child psychology and a group listening scheme. Lauriston C.W.I. won the cup given by the Rugby Union for the Institute doing the most community work in 1952. Children's Christmas parties in the 1960's were highly successful events usually with fancy dress competition. At the 36th birthday party in 1967 the Past Presidents' Honours Board was unveiled. Nine of the thirteen Past Presidents invited attended and spoke, recalling early trials and tribulations of meetings. Lauriston C.W.I. won first place in the Eisteddfod in 1972, and in 1974 organised a very successful district wine and cheese party. With the profit from this, Mrs T. Lemon and Mrs L. Gilpin made the attractive curtains still hanging in the Hall supper room today.

Attendance at the meetings has had its ups and downs throughout its fifty two year existence. In 1968 the financial membership was 48, in 1974 it was 19. However, a landscape gardening day in 1980 attracted 80 people.

In 1981 Lauriston C.W.I. celebrated its Golden Jubilee. On the perfect winter's day of 22 July, 1981 past members, present members and friends, about 80 in all, gathered in the Lauriston Hall to celebrate this event. After morning tea and a welcome by Mrs T. Lemon, one of the two conveners of the Jubilee Committee, the Jubilee tree, a golden ash, was planted by Mrs



**LAURISTON SOLDIERS MEMORIAL HALL
SOLDIERS WELCOME HOME
11th OCTOBER, 1946**

Back : K. Smith, Clark, D. Fyfe, H. Dalgety,
T. Dalgety, W. Ashworth
Middle : H. Sutton, H. Chapman, E. Blain, K.
Pluck, B. Pluck (Back), G. Anderson, T.
Lemon, H. Farquhar, S. Lemon
Front : H. McNeill, J. Daley, Edna Lemon, M.
Fyfe, S. Goodwin, T. McNeill, M. Anderson



**LAURISTON C.W.I. AT LONBEACH
HOMESTEAD, 1950**

Back Row : Mrs. J. Marshall, Mrs. G. Taylor,
—, D. Lemon, I. Stevens
Middle Row : —, N. Goodwin, Mrs. Steer,
G. Doak, H. Mounsey, E. Blain, Mrs. G. Bishop,
Mrs. W. Tresize, A. Blain, J. Hayward
Sitting : A. Goodwin, M. Bebbington,
W. Crothers, D. Irwin, G. McConnell,
Mrs. Gordon, J. Gibbs



LAURISTON V.A.D.'s, 1940

Mrs. McKee, H. Irwin, A. Hampton, M.
Dalgety, E. Maidens, A. Irwin, Mrs. A.
McLauchlan, J. Holmes, L. Penney



LAURISTON BASKETBALL TEAM, 1938

Dorothy Maidens, Doreen McNeill, Bernice
Maidens, Norma Gadd, May Ashworth, Betty
Hooper, Vera Lemon, Margaret Cook, Joyce
Lemon

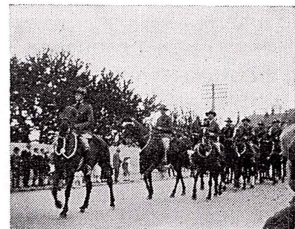


**COLLECTING SCRAP IRON
FOR THE RED CROSS, 1940**

A. Hampton, E. Maidens, R.
Letham



**HOME
GUARDSMAN
J. B. DALEY
1941**



**MOUNTED C.Y.C. IN
PROCESSION**

LABOUR DAY, 1928

Maude Boag and Mrs Joan Quigley (President). After decade photographs were taken, the Jubilee cake was cut by Mrs M. Boag, the most senior foundation member present. Other foundation members present were Mrs Eileen Crozier, Mrs Elsie Vaughan and Mrs May Wilson. After Toasts, a delicious lunch was served. The minutes of the inaugural meeting held on 22 July, 1931 were read by the first Secretary, Mrs Eileen Crozier, and a short address was given by Mrs Helen Sankey (co-convenor of the Jubilee Committee). There was ample opportunity to chat and recall "golden olden" days and afternoon tea brought to a close a memorable day.

Presidents of Lauriston C.W.I.: 1931-32 Mrs H. J. Crothers, 1933-36 Mrs W. Gimson, 1937 Mrs H. T. Crothers, 1938 Mrs J. Mackie, 1939 Miss Eileen Maidens, 1940-42 Mrs J. Mackie, 1943-45 Mrs C. A. Fyfe, 1946 Mrs H. T. Crothers, 1947-48 Mrs J. Mackie, 1949-51 Mrs J. R. Mounsey, 1952-53 Mrs T. E. Doak, 1954-56 Mrs V. Boag, 1957 Mrs L. Reesby, 1958-59 Mrs J. R. Mounsey, 1960 Mrs W. H. McConnell, 1961-64 Mrs P. A. Dickie, 1965-68 Mrs G. R. Burton, 1969-71 Mrs T. H. Lemon, 1972-74 Mrs L. R. Gilpin, 1975-78 Mrs D. McLaughlin, 1979-81 Mrs L. Quigley, 1982- Mrs C. Butterick.

Mid-Canterbury Federation Members: Mrs J. R. Mounsey, Mrs W. H. McConnell, Mrs T. H. Lemon, Mrs P. A. Dickie, Mrs L. R. Gilpin. Mesdames Mounsey and Dickie were Federation Presidents.

LAURISTON DRAMA CLUB

The Drama Club had its beginnings in the Country Women's Institute in 1947. With the help of a tutor, Mrs Rosanne Rutherford, who toured the Ashburton County for six weeks, that year, many C.W.I. Drama Groups were established. They performed one-act plays and the best were taken to the Ashburton Drama Festival.

It was not long before one-act plays, with women only in the cast, became difficult to find and C.W.I. members' husbands were persuaded to take part. Lauriston Drama Club became very successful winning the cup at the Ashburton Festival several times.

George Worthington from the Adult Education Department toured country districts, for six weeks, to help and advise. Hazel Mounsey continued on as producer. School teachers, farmers, housewives all became actors and showed remarkable talent. When additions were made to the Lauriston Hall in 1957, a suitable stage was built in. Up till then the stage had consisted of planks and table tops with kerosene drums for support. Many hilarious "accidents" happened on this insecure platform.

From one-act plays the club progressed to performing three-act plays. One of the most successful was "Off the Deep End". People came long distances to see the show and the season had to be extended to cope with audiences.

No outside help was given to obtain scenery and properties. All members were fully extended to make or obtain these. Welcome help for switchboard and spotlights was given by John Leonard and Roger Stevens.

About 1957 membership was dwindling. Hazel Mounsey was asked to produce for the Methven Choral Society and most of the remaining members of the Drama Club joined there. The Drama Club went into recess. Properties were later used by the school for their concerts.

LAURISTON RED CROSS

The Lauriston Red Cross was a sub-branch of the British Red Cross until after the 1914-1918 World War when N.Z. formed its own Red Cross. Records show that on 15 November, 1915 at a School Committee meeting it was decided that the school picnic be abandoned in favour of making donations to two worthy causes. It was agreed that £5 each be given to the Lauriston Red Cross Society and to the local entrant, Miss Katie McCormick, for the Mt. Hutt Queen Carnival. Other than this reference, we have no records of any other meetings.

The Ashburton County War and Relief Fund, appealed for funds for wounded soldiers, and the sum of £16,000 was given. This was in conjunction with the Mt. Hutt Queen Carnival. A newspaper cutting reveals this.

The Lauriston branch of the Red Cross was reformed in 1939. Mrs W. Gimson, of Mitcham, who was elected as President in 1939, held the position for six years and was an able and enthusiastic President. She set such a good example herself she inspired the members to knit many garments, such as sox, pullovers, balaclavas, scarves and mittens. These, and many food parcels, were sent to local men and women overseas.

Mrs Ada McLachlan, of Corwar, was a trained nurse, and was tutor to well-attended classes for home nursing and first aid at Lauriston and at Barrhill. All were examined afterwards by Dr Candy, of Rakaia. Misses Edna Lemon and Hazel Irwin had further nursing training after which Edna became a V.A.D. overseas for some years. Hazel gave service in the Air Force at Wigram for some time.

LAURISTON HOME GUARD

In 1942, when the threat of Japanese invasion of N.Z. was very real, various Home Guards were formed in the County. Lauriston formed one under the leadership of Commanding Officer Arthur Gadd, Lyndhurst, aided by O. E. Hooper and W. E. Smith. All resident males were ordered to attend a weekly instruction course. Each man was issued with a pair of boots and a white arm band for identification. No uniforms or weapons were issued.

Alex Goodwin's shed and the Lauriston Hall were used as headquarters and many types of manoeuvres were practised. One exercise was to dig trenches at the Rakaia bridge. There was a trip to the rifle range at West Melton for rifle shooting practice.

Mr C. A. Fyfe was air-raid warden and his duty was to inspect all houses to see if the windows were blackened out, with dark curtains. All duties were taken very seriously.

CANTERBURY YEOMAN CAVALRY

The Canterbury Yeoman Cavalry was formed in 1864 and to mark the Centennial of this Home Unit, they held a parade at the Riccarton Racecourse in November, 1964. The significance of it being held on a race day was because there was always a race for the horses belonging to C.Y.C. members.

Reg Maidens and Bill Thomas (who worked at "Smithfield") used to spend their two weeks' annual holiday at Burnham Camp with the C.Y.C. in the 1930's thus completing their two weeks' voluntary service. Reg and Bill would ride their horses over to the Lauriston Railway Station, load them on to a railway truck and travel with them by rail to Burnham Military Camp. At times there were 1,000 horses and men in camp. Teams of riders of the C.Y.C. used to participate in tent pegging and the Lloyd Lyndsay competition at the Agricultural Shows.

The C.Y.C. discontinued in 1939.



LAURISTON CRICKET CLUB, 1926 - 1927

Winners of Junior Competition

Back Row : W. W. Goodwin, W. E. Smith, W. Wright, A. Donaldson, T. Gray

Middle Row : J. Bennet, H. T. Crothers, J. Cromie, A. Hooper, E. Henderson

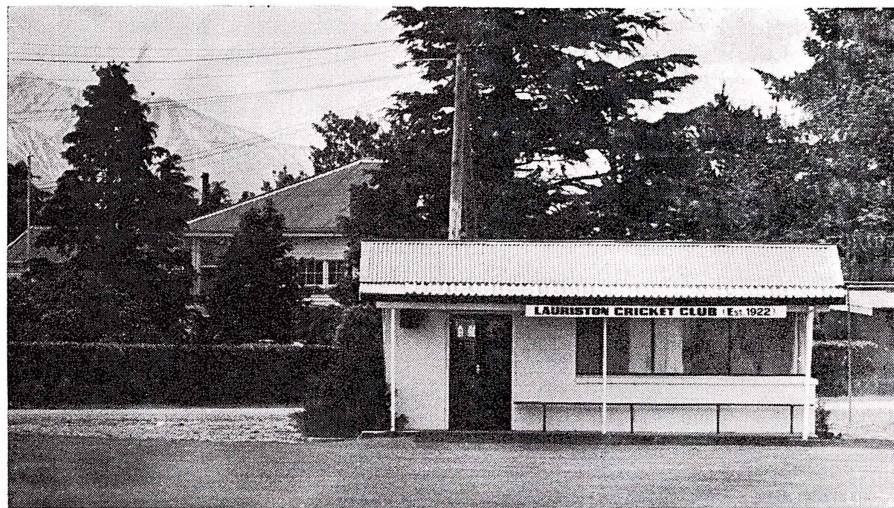
Front Row : T. Hooper, J. Jacobs, R. H. Maidens, W. Goodwin

LAURISTON CRICKET CLUB

The Lauriston Cricket Club was formed at a meeting held in the Lauriston School on 18 July, 1922, on the motion of Mr E. Norrish, seconded by Mr G. Stayt. While no record remains of the names or number of those present a Committee of 13 was formed under the Chairmanship of Mr W. W. Goodwin and with Mr E. Norrish as Secretary. Those elected to the first Committee were: Messrs J. Jacobs, G. Farquhar, R. Prebble, Mitchell, G. Stayt, N. Walls, L. Dalzell, H. Crothers, W. Smith, C. Fyfe and G. Hooper. The first Captain appointed was J. Jacobs with N. Wall as Vice-Captain.

On 22 August, 1923, a concrete wicket—which had been laid over the off-season — was declared open by the then Patron, Sir Heaton Rhodes, a ribbon was cut by Mrs Goodwin, the President's wife, and all present received a piece of ribbon as a memento of the occasion. Two teams were selected from the following members: G. Farquhar Snr, G. Farquhar Jnr, W. Smith, J. Jacobs, G. Stayt, R. Prebble, W. O'Grady, V. Simpson, T. Gray, G. Hooper, A. Hooper, H. Crothers, A. Goodwin, W. Goodwin, C. Norrish, E. Norrish, J. Prebble, S. Ashby, C. Dalgety, J. Rogers, A. Donaldson, R. Maidens, A. Maidens, C. Fyfe, T. Pickering, W. Brunsden, G. Bishop and S. Ashby Jnr. Since then Lauriston has sometimes fielded two teams and sometimes senior sides but it is in the Second Grade competition that most success has been achieved with competition wins in the 1926-27, 1938-39, 1968-69, 1973-74, 1975-76, 1978-79 and 1980-81 seasons.

The war years had their effect on most activities and cricket did not escape. In 1940 all members were granted honorary membership for the



THE CRICKET CLUB PAVILION AS IT IS TODAY

duration of the war and for six months afterwards. Petrol rationing forced the Club to withdraw from competition play in 1942 but it returned the following year on the understanding that it could play at home every second week-end.

1947 marked the 25th Anniversary of the Club and 42 former players attended celebrations which included a match, present (who won) versus past, a Club dinner, and a Jubilee Ball attended by 250 guests. For the next 13 years the Club fielded a senior side supplemented by a Second Grade team for three seasons from 1953-55. In 1961 the Club bowed to the Association's wishes and went down to Second Grade. The Association had actually requested that it drop to Third Grade but Lauriston steadfastly refused. Seven struggling years of rebuilding the team followed with the reward coming in the 1968-69 season when the Club carried off the Second Grade championship. Since this time the team has been near the top of the competition every season including competition wins on five occasions.

In 1972 highly successful 50th Anniversary celebrations were held with past members from all over New Zealand attending. The celebrations opened with a Ball on Friday, 20 September, followed by a tied Past versus Present game played in perfect conditions on Saturday, 21 September. At the tea break the Club's new pavilion was opened — a task performed by the Club's Patron, Walter Goodwin Jnr. Ending the celebrations was a well attended Banquet and "Smoko" on Saturday evening.

Over the years the Club has been presented with three trophies. The W. E. Smith Memorial Cup, which is presented to the most improved player, commemorates the late "Nugget" Smith, a foundation member of the Club whose big hitting is still remembered; the R. P. Douglas Cup which was presented by the late "Pop" Douglas, an avid supporter, follower, and critic of Lauriston for a number of years; and the Jack Jacobs Memorial Tray, presented to the Club by Mrs A. Bebbington in memory of her father, Lauriston's first Captain, which is presented to the team's top all-round cricketer. In addition an Honours Board was presented to the Club by Mrs Alma Goodwin in memory of her husband, Walter Goodwin Jnr, Captain of Lauriston at the time of their first two competition wins and a life time player and supporter of the Club. This Board, hung in the pavilion, records outstanding performances with bat and ball by Lauriston players.

Looking back over Club records the names of three families appear regularly and constantly. The contribution of the Goodwin family in particular has been immense and together with the Ashworth and Hooper families provide a link with the early days to the present. Three generations of Goodwins and Hoopers have appeared for the Club and Steve Ashworth and his four sons all gave great service to the Club on and off the field. While the efforts of these people are appreciated, the fact remains that all those who have been associated with the Club over the years have each in their own way contributed to a Club which holds a high reputation for sportsmanship and for fellowship.

The Grounds

On its formation the Club was given the use of a paddock by Mr W. W. Goodwin on his property south of the railway line. On this ground was laid a concrete wicket during the winter of 1923 — the first of a very few concrete pitches in the County. As was earlier stated this was officially opened by Sir Heaton Rhodes at the start of the 1923 season. This concrete wicket was in use up until 1967-68 season when the Club moved to its present site. Starting off with merely a gear locker on the ground the Club's first pavilion was a shed for which the Club paid the princely sum of £9 in 1924. Though this shed was so small it would not take the entire team at one time (cups were stored in one corner, mats in another and the rest of the gear was piled in the middle) it served the Club for 37 years until a new pavilion was erected in 1951. The "new" pavilion was shifted onto the present ground when the Club transferred in 1967 and was used up until the present concrete-block pavilion was opened in 1972 at the time of the 50th Anniversary celebrations. The present pavilion was built with \$1,500 raised by a variety of means—hay carting, potato picking, scrap and bottle drives etc.—and a good deal of volunteer labour was put into the building. Block laying, plumbing and wiring being the only tasks not specifically done by Club members. It was appropriate that this building was declared open by Mr Wally Goodwin, son of the first President (a leading figure in the Club's formation), and himself the Captain for 15 years including the years of the first two competition wins and at the time Patron and a Life Member.

The present ground was purchased by Mr H. G. Douglas from Mr Tom Stapleton in 1966 and offered to the district as a sports ground. Many and varied were the suggestions for possible uses for the ground at a meeting of district residents called to discuss the purchase of the property. One member of the Cricket Club's delegation said that the Cricket Club would use the ground and that they were sure that a sports ground and environment could be produced by the Club that would be an asset to the community. This the residents agreed to, a collection was taken up, the ground purchased in the name of the Hall Committee, and the Club set out to lay out a ground and wicket equal to any in the County. The ground is rented by the Club at a nominal fee from the Hall Committee in return for maintaining and improving the area. Provision was made to leave an area for tennis courts which have since been established. The grounds have been enhanced by the planting of trees and shrubs supplied by the Hall Committee and Sir Charles Hilgendorf.

Much of the work in laying out the ground, putting down the "square", and in planning and constructing the new pavilion was done by Wally Ashworth who was presented with a silver tray at the 1972 annual meeting in appreciation of his work. The Club has been complimented on its facilities over the past few seasons by well known cricketers such as Richard Hadlee, New Zealand's opening bowler who has played a number of times on the ground in friendly games, and Colin Blackman who opened the batting for New South Wales in Sheffield Shield cricket some seasons ago. As the trees and shrubs become established the ground will continue to improve and provide a most pleasant setting in which to play or watch cricket.

Presidents of the Lauriston Cricket Club

1922, W. W. Goodwin; 1923, G. Farquhar Sen.; 1924-6, W. W. Goodwin; 1927-8, A. Donaldson; 1929-30, W. D. Brunnsden; 1931, H. T. Crothers; 1932-36, W. D. Brunnsden; 1937-39, J. Jacobs; 1940-41, W. E. Smith; 1942-50, J. R. Mounsey; 1951-56, H. G. Douglas; 1957-60, E. H. Gibbs; 1961-63, W. L. Ashworth; 1964-66, B. M. Conner; 1967-69, M. L. Gibbs; 1970-72, B. W. Hooper; 1973-82, D. C. Hilgendorf.

Life Members

W. W. Goodwin, H. T. Crothers, S. Goodwin, S. H. Ashworth, P. A. Goodwin, W. Goodwin Jnr, J. R. Mounsey, H. G. Douglas, E. H. Gibbs, R. M. Hooper, W. L. Ashworth, B. W. Hooper.

Competition Winning Captains

1927-28, 1938-39, W. Goodwin Jnr; 1968-69, 1973-74, B. W. Hooper; 1975-76, N. A. Goodwin; 1978-79, B. W. Hooper; 1980-81, A. C. Goodwin.

LAURISTON INDOOR SPORTS CLUB

The initial meeting of the above club was held in the Lauriston Hall on 3 May, 1952. Mr Calder and Miss Shaw, instructors from the Physical and Welfare Department, directing the meeting — excellent attendance. Mr G. Bishop elected Club Captain; Mr J. Mounsey, President; Mr W. H. McConnell, Secretary; Mr R. J. Bennett, Treasurer. Indoor bowls, table tennis, darts, quoits, cards and crib were chosen. Subs at £1, secondary pupils 10/-, no primary children. Hall hire 1953, £21 — membership 80 members.

Leaders in 1958 were: Table tennis, Messrs J. Leonard and E. Smith; Bowls, Mr J. Bennett. Hall hire half price for minimum of 20 nights. In 1960 W. Gibbs elected President; R. Dalgety, Club Captain; R. Blain, Secretary; J. H. Stevens, Treasurer; Life members, J. Bennett and J. H. Stevens. It was agreed that a suitable plaque be put on the McRobb Challenge Cup. Those present at the annual meeting in 1965 were L. Reesby, T. Lemon, B. Smith, W. Gibbs, D. Findlay, R. Gordon, B. Arris, F. King, A. McRobb, B. Robertson, A. Greenaway and G. Hayward.

It was decided in 1966 and 1967 that the club go into semi-recess due to poor attendance. In 1968, E. Allison moved and P. Taylor seconded that the Club become active again — 18 present. G. Tilson elected President in 1969; Mrs S. Lancaster, Secretary/Treasurer. Subs \$3. R. Ross, President in 1971 L. Smart, Secretary/Treasurer. 1973, into recess again.

A revival in 1979. P. Michaelis, President; K. White, Secretary/Treasurer; Committee, D. Butterick, B. Blincoe, G. Vaughan. Subs \$10 family. The annual meeting in 1980. D. Butterick elected President and Mrs Joan Quigley, Secretary/Treasurer. D. Butterick kindly lent a pool table to the Club. There was a strong interest in 1981 in badminton and table tennis. Subs \$4. Hall hire \$60 for 10 nights.

In 1982 there is support from David and Allan Butterick, Joan, Wendy and Christine Quigley, Bruce, Stuart and Gary Leonard, Paul Ross, Chris Freear, Richard and Barrie Begg, Mark Digby, Bernard and Philip Daley.

LAURISTON YOUNG FARMERS' CLUB

The inaugural meeting, convened by C. Hilgendorf and J. G. Marshall of Federated Farmers, was held on 2 April, 1946. H. Bennett (District Y.F.C. Chairman) and Dick Inch from the Department of Agriculture, were also present. 12 prospective members attended. Officers elected were: Chairman, S. J. Letham; Secretary, G. W. Hayward; Vice-Chairman, J. E. Cairns; Treasurer, J. F. Clemens; Advisory Member, C. Hilgendorf.

During the next 10 years, the foundation of the Club was laid — by the efforts of keen conscientious young farmers in the district. In 1947 nine members conducted fertilizer trials, and the first hare drive was held. The first field trip was made to Christchurch in 1949, to Booth MacDonald's agricultural engineering business, and to a woolstore. These activities are still very popular today.

The first of many dances, which remained an excellent way of fund raising, until the late 1960's, was held in September, 1946. The club membership increased from the mid-1950's to the early 1960's, and the dances were so well patronised, it was decided not to provide supper, to reduce the numbers! Murray Wright was notable for his organisation of dances — not only at Lauriston, but at the Radiant and other Ashburton halls.

Club members took part in debating, dog trials, ploughing, shearing competitions (at A. and P. Shows), rifle shooting, and pasture judging. Enthusiasm for pasture judging declined in the late 1960's. Interesting and varied speakers have attended the meetings — still held on the first Monday of the month. Charles Hilgendorf was a popular speaker in the 1950's and early 1960's. Some records in the minute book raise a smile — at one meeting prior to a dance, a motion was moved that a bus be hired, and a load of Christchurch girls be brought down. Unfortunately it did not eventuate but there were plenty of seconders! The Club celebrated its 21st anniversary on 28 July, 1967, with an anniversary Banquet and Ball in the Mt. Hutt Hall.

After a short lived decline, Club membership began to increase again in the mid 70's, to today's healthy state of 40 members. From 1974-1982, the Lauriston stock judging team held the District Shield, and the Senior Debating team has won the District finals in 1981 and 1982, reaching the South Island finals in 1981. Over the years Lauriston Club has done well in District, Regional, and National Competitions particularly in debating. The Club is in very good heart, and supports community activities when needed.

Past Chairmen:

1946 S. J. Letham, 1947 J. E. Cairns, 1948 J. F. Clemens, 1949 A. Greenaway, 1950 D. Middlemiss, 1951 W. J. A. Goodwin, 1952 R. G. Cairns, 1953 J. R. Leonard, 1954 F. R. Bebbington, 1955 I. C. Wills, 1956 Jas. McLaughlin, 1957 W. Sides, 1958 John McLaughlin, 1959 R. Hollis, 1960 I. O. Wright, 1961 M. J. Wright, 1962 W. E. L. Oakley, 1963 C. J. Jowers,

1964 B. W. Hooper, 1965 J. N. Wright, 1966 G. J. Scott, 1967 R. J. Letham, 1968 R. C. Burdett, 1969 T. A. Hart, 1970 A. R. Johnston, 1971 B. A. Reesby, 1972 J. Olerenshaw, 1973 D. J. Ingold, 1974 C. R. Maw, 1975 R. H. Lemon, 1976 G. D. Champion, 1977 D. J. Butterick, 1978 D. M. Letham, 1979 A. Walther, 1980 A. D. Clemens, 1981 G. J. Letham, 1982 K. Wheeler.

LAURISTON FARM IMPROVEMENT CLUB

This Club began with a meeting in Lauriston Hall in 1956. In the early 1950's, a few dynamic men brought new thinking into the day-to-day running, and long term planning in pastoral and arable farming. Three of these innovators in Mid Canterbury were A. H. Flay, H. E. Garrett, and J. Oldfield who established a new extension from Lincoln College. This stimulus from the College, and the foresight of some Canterbury farmers, led to the meeting in 1956, and the formation of the Lauriston Farm Improvement Club. The name Lauriston has been deliberately retained, but the service now covers the whole of the Ashburton County.

In proposing the toast to "past executives" at the 25th Jubilee Celebrations on 26 June, 1981, S. F. Jackson, a foundation member, said that C. W. (Wilson) Mackenzie, the Club's first President, and J. E. Crozier, its first Secretary, had been the two men who set the Club in motion. It was Wilson Mackenzie who visited Prof. A. H. Flay, in charge of farm management and rural valuation at Lincoln College. Prof. Flay promised to supply a part-time adviser for the Club, R. A. Knox. The initial membership was 24, and the employment of the first full-time adviser, was P. M. Falconer, in 1969. In these years, many innovative ideas tried on Club farms, were taken up by others, i.e. crop growing, including peas, on light land. B. P. Royds, J. B. Tavendale, and R. Engelbrecht, were all advisers to the Club in the sixties, who left to operate privately as farm management consultants, in 1968. The Club's present advisers are J. Kinvig and B. Croucher.

In the early and mid 70's, with the cost price squeeze and inflation, it became far more evident that farming must be looked on as a business, and advisers became more essential than ever. The Club was one of the first to be established in the South Island, and is one of the last still in operation, servicing around 85 members in 1982.

Early Officers in the Club included Wilson Mackenzie, first Chairman; J. E. Crozier, first Secretary, and later Chairman; R. J. Dunkley, R. F. Letham, S. F. Jackson, G. D. Kelly, H. A. Jones, J. W. Marshall, D. L. Anderson, H. B. McLay, and the present Chairman, G. D. Rountree. G. D. Green was Secretary for 13 years until 1973, since when the Secretary of Mid Canterbury Federated Farmers has acted as Secretary to the Farm Club.

Lauriston Farm Improvement Club can be proud of the part it has played in developing the advisory service to agriculture.

Irrigation and the Farming Scene Today

The first plans to irrigate various parts of Canterbury were made in 1865. In 1891, William Baxter, the Ashburton County Council engineer, proposed three schemes to irrigate parts of Mid Canterbury, but none were adopted.

In 1935, the construction of the Rangitata Diversion Race (R.D.R.), began. This and the reticulation of the Ashburton-Lyndhurst scheme (of which Lauriston is a part) provided work in a time of unemployment. At that time, the Labour Minister of Works, Bob Semple, ordered that 80 men start work immediately on the scheme and with horses and drays, wheel barrows and spades, work began on No. 8 lateral race. Over the next two years, many other races were dug by the same means. Each drop section was done by co-operative contract — the men being paid per cubic yard of shingle removed. Bill Neely, a civil engineer working on the scheme, who lived in the Winchmore Public Works Camp, headquarters of the scheme, recalls the tough conditions there. All water for domestic use came from a stock race. The only treatment was through a shingle filter. He also remembers that the scheme was resisted and actively opposed by many people.

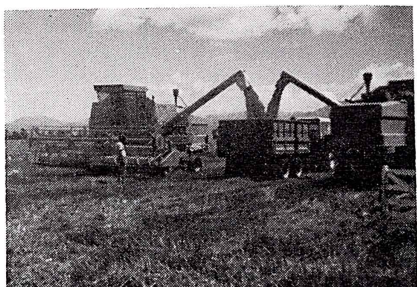
Construction continued at a much reduced rate during the war, concentrating on the R.D.R., because of the power station at Highbank. Earth moving equipment brought in just prior to the war, speeded up the work, and reduced the cost. In June, 1945, the R.D.R. and the Ashburton-Lyndhurst Scheme were officially opened, and intensive pastoral farming under irrigation began in the Lauriston area. Irrigation has brought closer settlement — the 400 acre block of light, shiny soil has become an economic unit. Automation of irrigation has progressed since the first set up based on the old canvas dam, and the unlikely combination of an alarm clock, a dog chain, and an ex-Air Force bomb release. New stronger woolled sheep breeds, e.g. Coopworth, well suited to irrigated pastures, have appeared in recent years, and we have a dairying farm of over 300 cows in the Lauriston area, supplying the Temuka factory.

The Barrhill-Highbank Irrigation Association is pressing for a scheme to irrigate the Barrhill-Highbank district. An application by this association for water rights appeared in "The Press", Nov. 6th, 1982. The scheme is to divert the flow of the Cameron River into Lake Heron, and from the lake's S.E. end, via a canal, into the South Branch of the Ashburton River, thence into the R.D.R. Irrigation seems a logical step in farming development on the Canterbury plains, and is essential if, in the future, we have to diversify into something more profitable than sheep and cattle.

The increased depth of the soil as one approaches Barrhill from Lauriston, is due to wind blown silt lifted out of the river bed by nor' westers roaring down from the Rakaia gorge over thousands of years. The Barrhill silt loam soil type, free draining and with few stones, is well known for its cropping capabilities, particularly with small seeds, wheat and potatoes.

Long gone are the days of reaping, stooking and threshing mills. Storage of grain in sacks, is also a thing of the past. Today we have large combines,

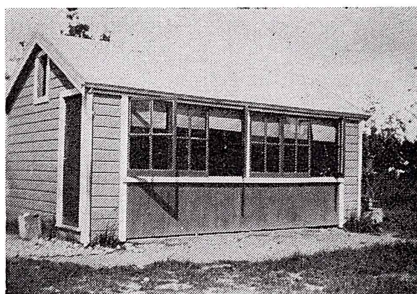
with air conditioned cabs, and concrete based silos with their corrugated iron walls and cone shaped roofs, to store the grain The changeover to bulk harvesting occurred in the late 1960's, when on-farm storage of wheat was required by the millers. Over the past 100 years pastoral and arable farming have been the back bone of the Lauriston-Barrhill area, and farming although its nature may change, is likely to be the mainstay of the future.



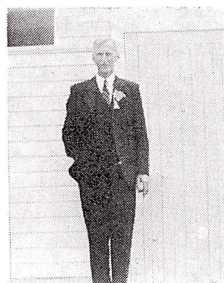
HARVESTING IN 1983 ON CLEMENS BROS. PROPERTY, "KARAMBI," BARRHILL



HARVESTING IN 1929, McINTYRE'S MILL



PRIMERS CLASSROOM, 1926

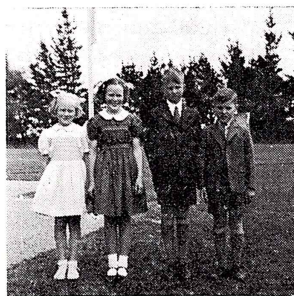


**Mr. A. PONT
(Headmaster 1950-1961)
at Jubilee Celebrations,
1958**



1948

Annette Doak, Keith Hurst, Neville Goodwin,
George McIntosh, Alison Scarth



1948

Marie Boag, Audrey Cairns,
Peter Mills, Roland Letham

MEMORIES

Melva Mitchell and Hilton Dalgety (residents in the twenties)

Lauriston township was served by the railway with accompanying buildings of station, goods shed, loading yards and two railway houses on the southern side of the line. We lived in the smaller of these and the Ashby family in the other one. On the northern side, the railway reserve was bounded by the road and the county water race. Facing this and at the Methven end of the township was Frank Cork's house, gable-to-gable with a laurel hedge in front and rambler roses on the side fence. Next came the George Maidens' square white house with neat white painted rails and wire mesh fencing. Then across the back lane, (Carnow Street) by which we village children went to school, was the store owned by W. Brunsdon, with comfortable living quarters attached. A little further along the road, with his house on the corner of Coleridge Street, was J. Jacob's blacksmith shop. The house was surrounded by a high well-kept macrocarpa hedge and our childish interest was aroused by a motor cycle parked at the side-gate every Sunday. We were later told someone "went courting" there. Both Coleridge Street and Carnow Street were entered through shallow fords. The muddy verges made lovely places for catching cock-a-bullies. Tom Hickman's home at the end of Carnow Street, past the school horse paddock, and the school house itself completed the township.

The railway was dependent on race water piped under the road into a well, then pumped by hydraulic ram, or if water levels were low by man power into the high tank which supplied the locomotive. On Tuesdays' and Thursdays' morning train fresh bread packed in large cane baskets arrived from Ashburton for the store. Meat was carried by butcher's cart from Methven in a large dust-proof box built under the seat of the trap. Only during school holidays did we children get the chance to see Mr Topp let down the tail-board and slice up the cuts of meat requested.

During the summer, on Saturday afternoons, the thing to do was go to "the cricket". Mr Walter Goodwin's was the large farm homestead closest to the township, and here the women went to cheer on their menfolk, assist with the scoring and serve afternoon tea: so the children went too.

In hot dry summers when grain was ripening, fire was an ever present hazard to the farmers. It could be caused by a spark from the train, sun's rays shining on a piece of glass under a tender-dry gorse fence or maybe a carelessly thrown match. When this happened all the men in the district, and all the boys strong enough to wield a wet sack turned out to help. It was frightening and exciting but how thankful we all were to hear the fire was under control. The visit of a circus to Lauriston was always a highlight. We did not always go to the show, but sometimes to see the animals fed and whenever possible we watched the procession of horse drawn wagons, colourful caravans and animals in cages as the company moved off to their next engagement. The twenties were years of change in Lauriston township.

Families changed and exchanged homes, motors replaced horses, kerosene lamps gave way to electricity, the school acquired a bus service, the Memorial Hall was built and we left Lauriston School.

Lauriston Township today

Changes have continued through the years since Melva and Hilton left the school. The railway house they lived in was demolished in the 50's, the other one is presently owned by Mr and Mrs L. Quigley. The two houses at the Methven end have also gone. George Maidens' house was for many years the home of T. Stapleton, Lauriston's first trucking contractor and owner of the school bus service until proprietor Robert Blain, who lived at the school end of Carnow Street, acquired it in 1951. The school end of Carnow Street was closed off and taken into the school grounds in 1953.

1972 saw the opening of the new cricket pavilion and playing field. With the planting of ornamental trees and the opening of the two new tennis courts there in 1978 this park-like setting is now the focal point of Lauriston.

Lauriston Tug-of-War

The Lauriston tug-of-war in the early 1930's was an exciting event. Alex Goodwin coached the light weight section and that team consisted of Reg Maidens, Fred Fullwood (a friend of the Maidens family), Frank Murphy and Gerald Doherty. The last two worked at A. T. Maidens's. Ossie Hooper was the timekeeper. Resin was rubbed on their hands, to protect them from rope burning, during the "pull".

One night in particular, their opponents were the Navy and Mead. Mead, near Rakaia, won the event. It seems that Arthur Maidens presented a dressed lamb for weight guessing that same evening, and when all the excitement of the "tug" was being fought for, the lamb was stolen! Arthur agreed to replace it. Barrhill also had a team and Eric Hurst can remember them practising under the street light on the River Road. Tiny Toon coached them.

Bird catching in 1905

This article appeared in the 75 years ago column of the Ashburton Guardian on 6 August 1980. Our Lauriston correspondent writes:—

The farmers of this district will be very pleased to hear that Mr J. W. Maidens (son of J. W. Maidens) who was absent from the district for some time has just returned and intends starting to rid the district of small birds. For which purpose he has produced a 90 foot net. He is at present trapping on Gilmour Bros. farm but the wet weather retards the work as it makes the net heavy. Unquote.

It seems this bird (sparrow) catching device was a net (like fishing net) and it was placed where the chaff cutter or threshing mill had been working and where grain had been spilt on the ground. When the birds arrived to feed on the grain a spring released by a person concealed trapped the birds. In those days the Ashburton County Council paid out 9 pence a dozen for birds heads and 3 pence a dozen for birds eggs.

1945 Snow Storm

On 12 July, 1945, patrons were advised to go home early from a function that was being held in the Lauriston Hall. A gale force north west wind forced the closure of this social. Next morning on the 13 July, the countryside was one big sheet of snow, even the fences and hedges were not to be seen! The depth of the snow was from 27 inches to 3 feet. Ashburton had 15 inches while Christchurch measured 12 inches. Telephone and power poles were a tangled mass all over the county, with the result, power and telephones were out of order for 3 weeks and in some areas much longer. Bulldozers had to be used to clear the roads and tractors to make tracks for the stock and people to walk along. Water races were solid ice. It was an unusual sight to see hares and rabbits running along the top of the gorse hedges. The snow lay for 6 weeks as heavy frosts hampered the thaw. In 1947 we had snow to the depth of 18 inches.

Agnes Rickard (nee Hickman)

Tom Hickman, his wife and family lived in Lauriston from 1910 to 1921. They lived at "Oakwood" for 2 years before shifting to Lauriston township (behind the school). The children attended Lauriston School and Tom was a member of the Lauriston School Committee. Breaking-in and training horses was Tom's livelihood and many farmers around the district owned horses. For most, horses were their only means of transport. So, Tom was in the centre of an enthusiastic trotting establishment.

Agnes, who is now 87 and her sister Millie (Mrs Barwell) both live in Ashburton. As girls Agnes says that in 1911 they cleaned the school for 12 shillings a term.

The Lauriston storekeeper's wife, Mrs Symes (nee Collison) in 1912 used to deliver goods from the store in their horse and open spring cart to residents as far away as C. Curd's (Phil Curd's today). Likewise over to Marawhiti Road to Mrs Jock Moore's (Annie Ross), Agnes says. Millie was an able pianist and was always in demand for socials at Lauriston. In 1933, Millie (Barwell Studios) took the official photos for the 50th Jubilee of the Lauriston School.

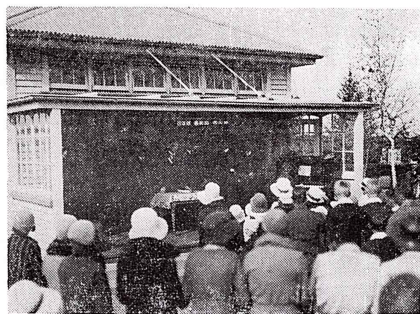
Mrs Elsie Vaughan (nee Cretney)

In November 1913, John Cretney, his wife Elizabeth and two small daughters, Mildred and Elsie, came out to New Zealand from the Isle of Man, to work for W. W. Goodwin, of Lauriston. When they arrived at Lyttelton, they wondered what sort of a country they had come to! The wharfies were on strike and the farmers were there with horses and drays, loading their own wheat onto the boats.

John stayed in W. Goodwin's employ until 1932 when he took over a block of land on his own account. During the years at Lauriston, four more children were added to the family, all attending Lauriston School. A grandson, Murray Vaughan still farms in the Lauriston-Barrhill district on Back Track Road.

Pat O'Sullivan 1908-1916

Pat stresses that the Centennial of our old school is an important milestone in our life-time. He regrets that the 75th Jubilee Chairman, the late Forrest Letham, will be absent. He and Forrest were in the same class and deskmates. Many well known families he remembers have thinned out over the years — the Drummonds, McCormicks, McPhails, Lemons, Lethams and W. W. Goodwins. The last named was Chairman of the School Committee for many years and in his speech at the 75th Jubilee, Pat remembers his remarks: "How he always remembered his good neighbours and the cart load of Lemons going by, on their way to school." (Seven attended at one time.) He recalls hearing the school bell ringing from their home on frosty mornings (E. Gibson's today.) He also says that when they couldn't catch their pony, they were forced to walk across country to school, carefully avoided Mr Alex Drummond's bull paddock. Sam Ashby, a railway man, who gave up his lunch break to coach the school rugby team was highly respected and deserves mention. Pat brings to mind Archie McCormick, who was the school's first old boy to wear the All Black jersey. Jack, his brother, also an old boy, was a Canterbury representative.



Mr. H. J. CROTHERS SPEAKING AT 50th
JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

MT. HUTT QUEEN CARNIVAL, 1915 LAURISTON RED CROSS CANDIDATES

Queen : Katie McCormick
Pages : Myrtle Goodwin, Edith Maidens

George Petrie 1912-1918

James Petrie, his wife and seven children settled at "Oakwood" (now McEvedy's cottage). Five children, Charlie, George, Ida, Dan and Jean attended Lauriston School and James was a member of the Lauriston School Committee.

George speaks of his father playing the violin while Millie Hickman played the piano at many socials and send-offs during World War I. Visiting artists came from Ashburton and these concerts were held in the Lauriston Railway Goods Shed. To name some of these excellent entertainers, Archie Todd, Joe Brown, Bill Denley and Mr and Mrs Craighead. George says that dances were held often in the "Oakwood" grain shed, using kerosene lamps for lighting and sitting around on sacks of grain.

A vivid memory George has, is of Miss Comer, the teacher at the Lauriston School. She used to teach singing, and George says that she was the first teacher to teach physical training, doing it to music. Millie Hickman played the piano for this exercise. Miss Comer wore a uniform of a blue jersey, blue knickerbockers (today's fashion!) and black stockings. That green curtain dividing the school, stands out vividly to George, and for many others! Miss Comer taught this song during World War I and George remember every word distinctly, today.

Knitting, knitting, knitting,
The khaki wool and grey,
Mufflers, sox, balaclavas, caps,
We are knitting day by day.
Knitting, knitting, knitting.
With a prayer in every row,
That the ones we love, in our hearts so dear,
May be guarded as they go.

Miss White used to come out from Ashburton on her motor bike (the engine being on the front wheel) to teach music at the school on Saturdays in 1916-1918. To name four of her pupils, George, and brother Dan (who excels at playing the violin), Bert Crothers and Maude Maidens.

Mrs Hazel Mounsey

Jack and Hazel Mounsey settled in Lauriston district in 1941 and farmed at Urrall. Jack's father, Robert Mounsey had taught at the Lauriston School from 1901 to 1904. Robert Mounsey's sister, Francis, came to stay at the school house, met Roland Letham and they later married.

Jack and Hazel still have in their possession the handsome Illuminated Address and gold bracelet, presented by members of the Lauriston district, to Jack's parents when they left Lauriston in 1904.

In their first year of farming they were almost "hailed out" losing much of their wheat crops. The hail was like jagged golf balls. They had snow storms which covered everything, fierce high gales which flattened trees and floods that threatened their home, (the renowned Dry Creek!). These set-backs were soon forgotten. Their children, Ann, Helen and Robert attended Lauriston School. Petrol was scarce, as it was war-time and trips to Christ-

church had to be by train. The children rode to the Springfield Pony Club at the Springfield homestead, linking up with Rhona Scarth and the Irwin children. Hazel remembers being a camp mother at a Pony Club weekend camp at "Sherwood" in the 1950's.

There were school Flower Show events in the 1960's with the children showing great interest in the floral work. Hazel says she was asked to go down weekly and give them instruction, which she enjoyed very much. Jack was a member of the Lauriston School Committee for 13 years and a past Chairman of the Lauriston Hall Society. Hazel joined the Women's Institute in 1945 and spent many happy days at these gatherings eventually becoming President in 1949-51 and 1958-59. From there Hazel became President of the Federation of Country Women's Institute in Ashburton in 1952-54. Hazel found it stimulating to participate in this far-reaching worthwhile cause for the community and beyond.

They retired to Christchurch in 1972. David Logan bought their farm and farms it today.

Chloe Kear (nee Collison)

Edward Collison and his family of eight settled on Marawiti Road (now Back Track) in about 1890. James, Fred, Percy, Rita and Douglas attended Barrhill School. Later James, my father went out contracting, then bought Les Mangin's farm on Accommodation Road (Jack Stevens today). J. Clinton's were our nearest neighbours and half a mile away the A. Penney's lived. A. Penney was very active in the district, even running a library in his home! He was Chairman of the Barrhill School Committee and helped out giving singing lessons with the aid of a tuning fork.

Mrs McIlraith, a widow, with two daughters was school mistress at the time, and as there was no piano in the school, her piano was carried over for socials and dances. My mother played the piano for such events, we children going too. My baby sister being in a basket behind the piano! My mother played the organ at St. John's Church, Barrhill.

We left the district in 1923.

Machinery and Horse Drawn Vehicles of Yesteryear

Alistair Stevens and his father, Jack, of Accommodation Road, Barrhill, began collecting old machinery and vehicles in 1974. Initially they collected old engines and in 1976 restored a buckboard, a farm-dray and spring cart. Their show vehicle is a four wheeler originally used to cart apples in Appleby in the Lake District of England.

The first draught horse was purchased in 1975 and in 1981 a second draught filly was bought. Both horses compete at the A. and P. shows. At present they are restoring the Hayward family gig.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Lauriston and Barrhill Schools are proud of their old pupils for in their ranks are many prominent and well known citizens. Many hold responsible public office, managers of companies, teachers, Ministers of religion (including Father Bernard Carney and Rev. Winston Marshall).

One old pupil of the Barrhill School in particular reached a very high office. C. C. A. McLachlan became an M.P. for Selwyn (now changed to Rakaia) in 1966. In 1975, until he retired in 1980, Colin became the Hon. C. C. A. McLachlan, Minister of Railways and Transport.

The majority are successful farmers, as one would expect from a country school.

Sefton Fyfe

Sefton is the youngest son of Colin and Mrs Fyfe, and now Professor W. S. (Bill) Fyfe, Chairman of Geology at the University of Western Ontario, Canada.

He became assistant Professor of Geology at the University of California in 1955, and was Professor of Geology at Berkeley from 1959-1965. He then returned to Great Britain, to become Royal Society Professor of Geochemistry at the University of Manchester from 1966-1972. Since 1972 he has been in his present position in Canada. Sefton is a Fellow of the Royal Society in the United Kingdom, and an honorary Fellow of the Royal Society of N.Z.

Ian Lochhead

Ian is the son of John and Ann Lochhead of "Lavington". (Ann, nee Callender, infant mistress at Lauriston 1939-44). Ian, a promising pupil at Lauriston School, attended Auckland University in the 1970's, where he graduated M.A. in Art History. From there he studied at Bryn Maw University in Philadelphia, U.S.A. receiving his Doctorate of Philosophy in 1981. Ian is now lecturing in Art History at the University of Canterbury.

SPORT

Archie McCormick

Archie, father of the well known All Black, Fergie, was an All Black in 1925, and also won the South Island and N.Z. Heavyweight Boxing Championships. About the same time, Helen, his sister represented Canterbury in hockey.

David Letham

In August 1975, three young men and three girls were chosen to represent N.Z. Pony Club at a month long Pacific Rally in Virginia and Texas in America.

These competitors had to be under 21 and they were forbidden to take their horses to U.S.A. David was one of these representatives. He competed in a team of three in these One Day Events. His team gained two third places.

Valerie Sloper

Born in Ashburton, Valerie attended Lauriston School, and Christchurch Technical College. While there she met Valdemars Briedis, the ex Olympic Latvian coach, who recognized her potential in throwing events, and remained her coach throughout her sporting career.

At 18 years of age, Valerie held two N.Z. records and the 10 years that followed were very exciting ones for her. She competed at every Olympic and Commonwealth Games, bringing home double golds from Perth and Jamaica, a Gold from Cardiff, and minor placings from Rome, Tokyo and Melbourne. In March 1961, Valerie, the undisputed champion of shot put and discus, married the well known hurdler, Ross Young. They have three children.

In 1973, Valerie was appointed to the National Council for Recreation and Sport, and in 1976 she was chaperon to the women competitors in the N.Z. Olympic team at Montreal. Her most recent sporting triumph, and to Valerie her "most glorious of all", was taking the Silver medal for shot put at the Commonwealth Games in Christchurch in 1974.

Grant Perry

Grant Perry of "Balrazie" is well known on the rugby field. He first represented Mid Canterbury in 1975 and has been captain of the Mid Canty team since 1978. He reached the All Black trials in 1980 and the same year played for the All Blacks in Fiji. He played for the South Island in 1980, and 1981, captaining the team in 1982. He was captain of the Probables in the All Black trials of 1982.

The Goodwins

Stan, Neville and Alistair, sons of Walter and Alma Goodwin, have excelled in rugby and cricket.

Cricket

STAN was in the 1st eleven in 1950-51 and captain in 1951 at Waitaki Boys' High. In the under 20 in 1953 he represented Mid Canterbury in the Canterbury Brabin Shield. In 1954 he was in the combined Mid-South Canterbury-Nth Otago team and in 1953-61 he represented Mid Canterbury.

Rugby

In 1959 Stan was captain of the Mid-South Canterbury-North Otago against the Lions; 1950-51, 1st fifteen at Waitaki Boys' High; 1955, N.Z. Colts team to Australia and Ceylon (Sri Lanka) for an eight weeks' playing tour. Stan represented Mid Canterbury from 1953-62 and captain from 1958-62.

NEVILLE—1st fifteen in 1956-57 and 1st eleven in 1955-56-57 at Waitaki Boys' High. He represented Mid Canterbury from 1958-68 playing 45 games. Neville was a rugby referee in Mid Canterbury in 1971-72. He coached the Methven Senior Rugby team from 1973-76. In 1976-82 Neville was a Mid Canterbury rugby selector. To cap it off, he was appointed a selector and coach for the South Island.

In the County Cricket representative team Neville played from 1959-60 and 1964, 1970-74.

ALISTAIR was a representative rugby player for Mid Canterbury from 1964 to 1969 — 72 games in all. Alister was in the 1st fifteen at Waitaki in 1961.

CENTENNIAL PROJECT

The focal point of the recreational area laid out for the centennial, is the hexagonal shelter. It was designed by Bart Wendelgest, a former school committee member, and built by Murray Bebbington, assisted by school committee members.

A sum of \$5000 raised through donations, and hay carting, organised by the school committee, covered the cost of the building, the equipment in the adventure playground and the trees planted there. A donation from an old pupil, enabled the "girls' garden" to be planted in rhododendrons to commemorate the centennial.

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

We tender our grateful thanks to:—

David Butterick, Graham Campion, Eileen Crozier, Douglas Fyfe, Sir Charles Hilgendorf, Brian Hooper, Frank Jackson, Dorothy Lemon, Bruce Leonard, John Leonard, Guy Letham, Raymond Logan, Hazel Mounsey, Joan Quigley, General Post Office Christchurch, N.Z. Railways, R. A. Stephens, Jean Wightman, Christine Wright.

Reference Sources:—

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Ashburton (J. Brown).

The Landed Gentry of Lowlands Ashburton County 1890-1896 (S. T. Eldred Grigg).

Centenary of Barrhill (Dorothy Irwin).

Ashburton (Dr W. H. Scotter).

Essays on Pioneer Women Ashburton Centenary 1878-1978 (Edited by Alison Ryde and M. B. Thompson).

Guide to Winchmore Irrigation Research Station (M.A.F. Ashburton).

Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington.

Lands and Survey, Christchurch, and Methven Jaycees.

Canterbury Museum Library.

"Ashburton Guardian".

Ashburton County Council

Ashburton Public Library

Winston T. Corbett

DECADE 1: 1883-1893

George Church, Maude Church, Margaret Church, Frederick Church, Kate Drummond, Harrison Drummond, Michael Daly, Margaret Gorman, Kate Gorman, Michael Gorman, Patrick Gorman, John Gorman, Bella Johnson, Martha Lemon, Thomas James Lemon, Samuel George Lemon, Walter Lemon, Ada Maidens, Maud Maidens, Arthur Maidens, Mary Ross, Elspeth Ross, William Ross, Edith Widdowson, Amy Widdowson, Flossie Widdowson, William Dickie, Samuel Cox, William Johnston, Arthur Dent, George Hayman, Thomas Dent, Thomas Johnson, Alfred Johnson, Florence Dent, Mary Johnson, Sarah Johnson, Elizabeth Hayman, Alexander Orr, Eliza Orr, Arthur Dickie, Thomas Dickie, Sarah Hydman, Stephen Whitta, Clara Whitta, Anne Hyndman, Archibald McNaught, John McNaught, William Buchan, Alexander Buchan, Martha Hyndman, Arthur Burgess, Andrew Forsyth, Margaret Hinds, Sarah Church, Martha Church, Minnie Burgess, Maggie Johnson, Mary Dunkley, William Burgess, William Hinds, Mary Hinds, Sarah Hinds, Emma Burgess, Lena Wallace, Hugh Kennedy, Rose Hinds, John Martin, Helen Forsyth, Charles Hardley, John Devery, Sarah Forsyth, Madaline Kennedy, Robert Johnson, Jane Hinds, Eliza Hyndman, Florrie Burgess, Frances Hampton, Mary Dunnhiey, Edith Capon, Ada Church, Elizabeth Meagher, Thomas Meagher, Maria Maidens, Ellen Forsyth, Maggie Wallace, Thomas Witta, Charles Ross, Bella Ross, Annie Hogg, John Morland, James Morland, Ellen Drummond, William Drummond, Cissy McNaught, Annie Drummond, Maggie Hinds, Janet Drummond, Peter Drummond, Lillie Wall, Alex Drummond, Dorothy Walker, Elspeth Ross, William Devery.

DECADE 2: 1894-1903

Christina Buchan, Mary Church, Emily Church, Norman Cornwall, Eva Amelia Church, Albert Church, George Cassey, Herbert Church, Mildred Church, Sarah Devery, Dora Devery, Helena Devery, Norah Daly, Mary Drummond, Edmund Devery, Arthur Devery, William Devery, Henry Dent, John Drummond, Thomas Drummond, David Daly, Kate Daly, Olive Dent, Ruby Dent, Julia Daily, Nellie Daily, George Evans, Edmund Gorman, Andrew Gorman, Bertha Gadd, George Gadd, Edward Hampton, Isabel Hampton, Lizzie Hampton, Martha Hampton, Patience Hampton, Constance Hampton, Ethel Hampton, Eva Hampton, Harriet Lemon, Alfred Loe, Harry Loe, Walter Letham, Ella Letham, Marion Letham, Janet Letham, Agnes Letham, Gilbert Murdoch, James Murdoch, John Moore, Hugh Moore, Mary Moore, Robert Moore, Hilda Murdoch, Alexander Murdoch, John McKendry, Dennis McKendry, Margaret Annie McKendry, Annie McIlraith, Vernon Norrish, Ina Norrish, Reginald Norrish, Frederick Phillips, Donald Ross, Kate Ryan, Sarah Ryan, Patrick Ryan, Daniel Ryan, Peter Ross, Mary Stewart, William Stewart, Maude Wallace, Andrew Wallace, William Widdowson, Joseph Wallace, Alice Widdowson.

DECADE 3: 1904-1913

William Anderson, Murdoch Anderson, Reg Bebbington, Alan Bebbington, Beryl Ballagh, Muriel Mavis Brown, Violet Cassey, Violet Church, John Crowe, Katie Crowe, Margaret Crowe, Annie Crowe, Leslie Church, James Clinton, John Criglington, Rita Collison, Kitty Crowe, Georgina Cowan, Marjorie Callaghan, May Callaghan, Herbert Crothers, Edith Chapman, Rita Chapman, Lorna Chapman, Mildred Cretney, Mary Daily, Cecil Dent, Jerry Daily, Beacon Dickie, Colin Dickie, John Drummond, David Daily, Nellie Dickie, Helen Drummond, Alan Dickie, Alexander Leo Drummond, Peter Drummond, Reginald Fechney, Leslie Fechney, Leeda Gunn, Lexia Gunn, Alex Goodwin, Mona Goodwin, Nell Goodwin, Violet Goodwin, Margaret Goodwin, Winnie Goodwin, Agnes Hickman, Margaret Hickman, Millie Hickman, George Hickman, Alfred Harris, Ruby Haines, Tairene Lowe, Wilson Lowe, Leicester Maidens, Rose Murdoch, Henry Mulford, William Ian Moore, Reginald Maidens, Hannah Middleton, Colleen Morland, Maude Maidens, Edith Maidens, Michael McKendry, Gladstone D. McKendry, Gladys McPhail, Correta McPhail, Willie McPhail, Victor McPhail, Kate McCormick, Willie McCormick, Archie McCormick, Rufine McKendry, Levina McPhail, John McCormick, Ivy McPhail, Ray McCormick, Lawrence McNeill, Lily McPhail, Patrick McNeill, Nellie McCormack, William McTigue, Maurice McTigue, Charles McNeill, Keith McCormick, Eileen McNeill, Kenneth Norish, Michael O'Grady, John O'Grady, William O'Grady, Thomas O'Grady, John O'Sullivan, Thos O'Sullivan, Mary O'Grady, Cornelius O'Sullivan, William P. O'Callaghan, Julia O'Sullivan, George Petrie, Daniel Petrie, Jean Petrie, Rae James, John Thomas Reesby, Natalie Ryan, Russell Smith, Ruby Smith, Kenneth Syme, Margaret Todd, May Todd.

DECADE 4: 1914-1923

Catherine Austin, Eric Austin, Elizabeth Austin, Rona Amos, Trevor Amos, Catherine Ashby, Startin, Ashby, Edward Ashby, George Anderson, Margaret Allingham, Eugene Bishop, Allen Bishop, Irene Bishop, Clifford Bishop, Harold Bishop, Garland Bishop, Willie Clinton, Norman Clinton, Patrick Clinton, Marcus Curd, Stephen Curd, Elsie Cretney, Rosalie Curd, Kenneth Cooper, James Cunningham, Lillian Corrin, John Cretney, John Crawford, Huia Cork, Rachel Curd, Gordon Collison, Marjory Cretney, Philip Curd, Maurice Drummond, William Ray Drummond, Nancy Drummond, Joseph Drummond, Reginald Dalzell, Hilton Dalgety, Melva Dalgety, Arthur Farquhar, Margaret Farquhar, Hugh Farquhar, Laurie Gibson, Myrtle Goodwin, Francis Gray, Osborne Gray, Geo. Goodwin, Louis Goodwin, Walter Goodwin, Constance Goodwin, Sidney Goodwin, Horace Hansen, Myrtle Hockings, Irene Hockings, Joyce Hayward, Margaret Jacobs, Roland F. Letham, Jean Letham, Phyllis Letham, Allan Letham Douglas Letham, Lena Letham, May Letham, Marjorie Lemon, Andrew Letham, Marion Letham, Edna Lemon, Ella Letham, Isabel Letham, Vera Lemon, Doreen Lemon, Jessie Lemon, Ray Letham, Percy Letham, Allan Lemon, Enid Letham, Walter Lemon, Lydia Letham, Selwyn Letham, Douglas Lemon, Clarice Maidens, Winifred Mitchell, Eileen Maidens, William Mitchell, Raymond Mitchell, Dorothy Maidens, Joffre Maidens, Jessie McPhail, Pearl McNeill, Donald McCormick, Frank McNeill, Ray McPhail, Hugh McNeill, Timothy McNeill, Erin McNeill, Jean McCormick, Colleen McNeill, Doreen McNeill, Kevin McNeill, Jerry O'Sullivan, Patrick O'Sullivan, Helen O'Sullivan, Daniel O'Sullivan, Catherine O'Sullivan, Ida Petrie, Charlie Petrie, May Payne, Cuthbert Ryan, Annie Ward, Isabel Ward.

DECADE 5: 1924-1933

Murray Anderson, Gavin Anderson, Samuel Ashby, William Ashworth, Muriel Amos, May Ashworth, Raymond Ashworth, Alma Blain, Robert Blain, Chas. Blain, Margaret Blain, William Brunsden, Eric Blain, Isabel Cretney, Grace Cork, Douglas Cretney, Ivy Cornwall, Leonard Cornwall, Dorothea Cornwall, Leslie Cornwall, Douglas Cornwall, Peter Church, John Church, Phyllis Dalley, Grace Dalzell, Donald Dalley, Terrence Dalgety, Margaret Daley, Jeremiah Daley, Seddon Dalgety, Beatrice Daley, Joan Daley, Maureen Daley, Francis Dixon, Arthur Dixon, John Dixon, Patricia Daley, Douglas Fyfe, Maxwell Fyfe, Sefton Fyfe, Allen Greenaway, May Greenaway, Henry Greenaway, Eric Goodwin, Phyllis Gilpin, Laurence Gilpin, Gladys Gibson, Nancy Gibson, William Goodwin, Margaret Goodwin, Thomas Hambrook, Grace Hambrook, Walter Hillyer, Francis Hillyer, Fred Hampton, Ruth Hillyer, William Hahn, Dorothy Hillyer, May Hillyer, Joyce Lemon, Janet Letham, Samuel Lemon, Thomas Lemon, John Letham, Jessie Lemon, George Mitchell, Bernice Maidens, John Mangin, Margaret Mangin, Pamela Martin, Joyce Maxwell, Robert Pluck, Mona Pluck, Marjory Pluck, John Pluck, Louis Pluck, Raymond Payne, Kenneth Pluck, Gerald Rushton, Keith Rushton, Doris Roud, Richard Rushton, Nancy Smith, Eric Stayt, Wilfred Smith, Marion Sandrey, Ruth Sandrey, Frances Sandrey, Duncan Smith, Corrine Stapleton, Frederick Small, Douglas Small, Alice Small, Jean Sides, Jocelyn Webb, Patrick Webb, Joseph Whearty, William Wilmott, Leo Whearty, Moira Whearty, Dawn Dalgety.

DECADE 6: 1934-1943

Allan Amos, Charles Ashworth, Walter Ashworth, John Bebbington, Trevor Blain, Joy Bebbington, Robert Blain, Desmond Crothers, Peter Clinton, Jean Clinton, Graham Cairns, Gordon Clinton, Peggy Clifford, Rosalind Cairns, Arthur Cone, Dorothy Clemens, Thomas Clemens, Mavis Clemens, James Cone, Brian Daley, Desmond Dalgety, Raymond Dalgety, Shirley Dalgety, Maurice Dalgety, Rodney Dalgety, Monica Daley, Elizabeth Dixon, Patricia Doig, Kevin Daley, Judith Doak, Christina Dunnett, Jessie Dunnett, Anne Fairey, Arthur Goodwin, Ina Greenaway, Ngaire Goodwin, Elizabeth Gemmell, Ngaire Gemmell, Stanley Goodwin, Gladys Giles, Noeline Giles, Audrey Giles, Albert Hillyer, Edward Hooper, Bruce Hayward, Elizabeth Hooper, Charles Hooper, Minnie Harvey, Patricia Harvey, Eva Harvey, Thelma Hurst, Arnold Hurst, Raymond Hurst, Oliver Hurst, Elizabeth Hurst, Alfred Hurst, Clarence Hurst, Olive Hurst, Lorna Hurst, Cyril Jeffery, Ruth Letham, Barry Lumby, Norma Lumby, Lois Mackie, Lillie Mooney, Alexander Marshall, Ruth Mackie, Gavin Marshall, Roger Macann, Philippa Macann, Ann Mounsey, Robin Macann, William McLennan, Clarissa McIntosh, William Payne, George Payne, Allan Pluck, Phyllis Payne, Norma Stapleton, McLennan, Helen McCormick, James McLaughlin, John McLaughlin, Eric McLachlan, Russell McLachlan, Athlyn McLachlan, Archibald McLachlan, Noel McLaughlin, Beverley McLachlan, Fileen Sides, Ewen Smith, Lilian Sides, Thomas Stapleton, Rona Sides, William Sides, Rhona Sloper, Roger Stevens, Valerie Sloper, Rhona Scarth, Rona Vaughan, Clarence Whalley, Margaret Williams, Rubina Young, Raymond Young, May Young, John Young.

DECADE 7: 1944-1953

Irene Ashton, Shirley Ashton, George Ashton, Marjorie Anderson, John Angus, Yvonne Anderson, Noeline Boag, Lesley Boag, Peter Boag, Marie Boag, Pamela Bennett, Anthony Blain, Ivan Blain, Pamela Bishop, Valda Bishop, Jocelyn Bishop, Malcolm Baigent, Hilary Baigent, Elizabeth Blain, Carolyn Bishop, Adrienne Blain, Carolyn Blain, Barbara Bishop, Janice Blain, John Campbell, Audrey Cairns, Ronald Cone, Noeline Clinton, Donald Campbell, Pauline Curd, Bernard Carney, Norman Carson, Terrence Carney, Donald Cameron, Annette Doak, Elizabeth Douglas, Rosemary Douglas, Sally de Beer, Ronald Daley, David Furby, Ann Finlay, Maurice Fraser, Neville Goodwin, June Greenaway, Alistair Goodwin, Dennis Gibbs, Murray Gibbs, Sidney Hurst, Keith Hurst, Terry Hart, Beverley Hurst, Helen Holmes, Jane Hart, Norma Hellewell, Nan Hart, Barbara Hart, Dan Hilgendorf, Alexander Holmes, Mary Irwin, David Irwin, Gordon Johnson, Elizabeth Kelso, John Kerr, Anthony Kerr, Beverley King, Anita King, Daphne King, Errol Knight, Roland Letham, Rodger Letham, Janet Letham, Alistair Letham, Jennifer Ludemann, Raymond Ludemann, Catherine Letham, Vivienne Lemon, Frederick Lewis, Isabel Lilley, Ruth Marshall, Winston Marshall, Alyth Mills, Peter Mills, Helen Mounsey, Robert Mounsey, William Macbrayne, Alana Magson, Colin Maw, Valerie Mulqueen, William Mulqueen, Raymond Mulqueen, Maureen McLaren, Catherine McLaren, Lindsay McKenzie, George McIntosh, Ida McIntosh, Dawn McIntosh, Colin McIntosh, Helen McIntosh, Peter McLean, Robert McLean, Noel McLean, Beverley McLean, Ewen McIntosh, Malcolm McConnell, Anthony Oliver, Barrie Phillips, Annette Pont, Allan Pullan, David Pullan, Leone Poynter, Mary Ann Pullan, Charles Pont, Fay Pullan, Keith Quinn, Peter Richards, Gordon Richards, Frederick Smith, Joy Sloper, Laura Scarth, Ngaire Sloper, Alison Scarth, Linda Scarth, Peter Stocker, David Stocker, Mary Stocker, Judith Sullivan, Muriel Sullivan, Robert Sullivan, Kelvin Scarth, Julie Taylor, Marion Trezise, Christine Trezise, Patricia Thompson, Clarence Tomlinson, Kathleen Tomlinson, Eileen Tomlinson, Murray Vaughan, Elaine Vaughan, Janice Vaughan, Percy Williams, Alan Williams, Robyn Ward, Karen Ward.

DECADE 8: 1954-1963

Nanette Ainge, Denise Ainge, Thomas Aldridge, Irene Aldridge, John Aldridge, Murray Aldridge, Paulette Aldridge, Barbara Anderson, George Barker, Heather Barker, Gwenda Barker, Alison Bishop, Genette Blain, Wallace Blair, Anthony Beals, Charles Black, Robin Blain, Lynette Briggs, Angela Blain, Jennifer Briggs, Heather Blain, Norman Catlow, Trevor Curd, Colin Clemens, Pauline Carney, Derek Curd, Catherine Campion, Murray Clemons, Esmay Chappell, Judith Clyma, Edmund Carney, Graham Carney, Susan Clyma, Denis Clemens, Lois Carter, Brian Carter, Richard Campion, Barry Collins, Alistair Clemens, Mary Carney, Beverley de Beer, Colleen Dickson, Brendon Dobbins, Pamela de Beer, Robin Douglas, Stephen Dixon, Jillian de Beer, Prudence Dixon, John Dickie, Lynette Dobbs, Beverley Dobbs, Shirley Dobbs, Suzanne

Dobbs, Josephine Dixon, Margaret Dickie, Faye Dickens, Ian Fyfe, David Fyfe, Colin Fyfe, Peter Fyfe, Joanne French-Wollen, Linda Fyfe, Heather Fyfe, Shirley Gibbs, Alan Gordon, Jennifer Gibbs, Lindsay Gordon, Valerie Gibbs, Beverley Gordon, Murray Gordon, Norman Gray, Olive Gray, Bruce Gray, Winston Hampton, Susan Hart, Anthony Hurst, Brian Hurst, Jane Hilgendorf, David Hawkins, Bridget Hawkins, Sandra Hooper, Paul Holm, Kenneth Holdaway, Richard Hooper, Jill Hayward, Sharon Hillyer, Wayne Hayward, Anthony Hampton, Joanne Hampton, John Irwin, Julia Irwin, Gerardine Jones, Stephanie Jones, Alan Jackson, Sandra Jackson, Lindsay Jackson, Victoria Kilian, Roger Knox Athol Knight, Larry Kemp, Terrence Kemp, Irwin King, Neville King, Valerie King, Eleanor King, Marion King, May Lewis, Cynthia Lilley, Stephanie Lemon, Richard Lemon, Peter Letham, Alan Lochhead, Ian Lochhead, Mark Lemon, Eleanor Lewis, John Lilley, Donald Lemon, Angela Le Compte, David Letham, Judith Lemon, Susan Lemon, Margaret Lilley, Susan Le Compte, Gary Le Compte, Leslie Le Ray, Noeline Mehlhopt, Barry Mehlhopt, Russell Maw, Robin Maw, Lynley Maw, David McLachlan, Sherran McEvedy, Robin McEvedy, Paul McEvedy, Helen McLachlan, Margaret McConnell, Jenness McLachlan, Kelwyn McEvedy, Ross McConnell, Judith McManus, Alistair McRobb, Stewart McIntyre, Alistair McIntyre, Janice Nicol, Kevin Newberry-Johnson, Kathleen Newberry-Johnson, Paul C. Newberry-Johnson, Marilyn Pont, John Perry, Kui Patricia Pirika, Beverley Pirika, Margaret Pithe, Linda Pithe, Bruce Perry, Mark Perkinson, Grant Perry, Shaun Perkinson, Matthew Perry, John Perry, Neville Payne, Christopher Roberts, Valmai Rainey, Andrea Rainey, Gary Reardon, Karen Reardon, Peter Robinson, Kenneth Robinson, Deborah Reardon, Phillipa Reid, Lorraine Stewart, Dianne Stewart, Gordon Stevens, Michael Simpson, Arthur Stephens, Patrick Simpson, Maryann Stevens, David Trezise, Marie Taylor, Ross Trezise, Kathryn Trezise, Rhonda Turner, Stephen Thiele, Lynette Thiele, Gail Turner, Shirley Turner, Lynette Voice, Shirley Withell, Gerald Weakley, John Wright, Murray Wright, Brian Wright, David Watson, William Withell, John Wood, Carole Wallace, Judith Wood, Bruce Wallace, John Youngson, Andrew Youngson, Alexander Youngson.

DECADE 9: 1964-1973

Christine Arras, Grant Anderson, Helen Atkinson, Donald Atkinson, Clayton Alderton, Rhys Alderton, Carolyn Allison, Malcolm Allison, Charmian Alderton, David Butterick, Shirley Butterick, Michelle Bishop, Tony Butterick, Sylvia Boag, Diedre Bishop, Julia Butterick, Stephanie Blain, Allan Butterick, Simon Boag, Fiona Blair, Jeffrey Begg, Richard Begg, Barbara Cormack, Christopher Cormack, Jillian Cormack, Derek Conway, Bryan Clark, Adrienne Dickens, Ian Douglas, Sandra Davis, James Dixon, Gavin Dickens, Bernard Daley, Grant Davis, Phillip Daley, Christopher Freear, Noreen Garner, Jane Goodwin, Graeme Guise, Anne Guise, Bruce Guise, Raylene Guise, Debbie Gordon, Alistair Gibbs, Sandra Goodwin, Heather Gray, Bryony Gray, Stewart Gray, Belinda Griffiths, Hamish Galletly, Craig Gibson, Andrew Griffiths, Mary-anne Gibson, Nigel Goodwin, Robert Hampton, Cynthia Hayward, Simon Hampton, Nicola Hart, Richard Hampton, Raelene Hurst, Christopher Harder, Michael Hayward, David Hadfield, Raewyn Henderson, Michael Hurst, Angela Hampton, Gregory Hart, Terry Hooper, Stephen Hooper, Gavin Henderson, Mark Jordan, Stuart Jordan, Gavin Jordan, Grant Jordan, Laurette Jones, Paulette Johnson, Richard Johnson, Robert Jackson, Christina Jackson, Suzanne Kerr, Andrew Kerr, Phillip Kerr, Michael Kerr, Brian Kenny, Perry King, Amanda King, Raelene Le Roy, Bruce Leonard, Raelene Lloyd, Tracey Laxton, Kenton Le Compte, Gary Laxton, Alison Leonard, John Lee, Gary Lee, Stuart Leonard, Gary Leonard, Martin Letham, Shane Lister, Elizabeth Maw, Geoffrey Maw, Leslie Maw, Ian Maw, Gary Miles, Keith Macfarlane, Paul Macfarlane, Fiona Macfarlane, Linda McLachlan, Elizabeth McLachlan, Colin McIver, Dean McLaughlin, Christopher McLaughlin, Susanne McLaughlin, Nicola McLaughlin, Karen McIntosh, Debra McLaughlin, Janette Neill, Debra Neill, Tracey Neill, Grant Nicoll, Catherine Nisbet, Peter Nisbet, Kelvin Nisbet, Jane Perry, Julie Perry, Judith Perry, Anthony Price, Alistair Quigley, Robert Quigley, Wendy Quigley, Jennifer Reid, Raymond Rockhouse, Donald Rennie, Alistair Rennie, Margaret Rennie, Sandra Ross, Warren Rose, Paul Ross, Geoffrey Smith, Ross Smith, Joanne Smith, Peter Smith, Jennifer Streeter, Anne Streeter, Stephen Sumner, Phillipa Smith, Alistair Stevens, Andrew Swaine, Debra Turner, Adele Taylor, Lance Taylor, David Taylor, Donald Turner, Sharon Tilson, Wayne Tilson, Richard Tilson, Jeffrey Turner, Sarah Taylor, Terry Turner, Mark Turner, Brent Tiney, Thomson Campbell, Amanda Vaughan, Brett Williams, Angela Wright, Sarah-Jane Weir, Carl Zimmerman.

DECADE 10: 1974-1983

Kelly Anderson, Joanne Anderson, Rebecca Auld, Andrew Auld, Felicity Boag, Barrie Begg, Karen Blair, Julian Blincoe, Shane Blincoe, Darren Bennett, Cherie Bennett, Davena Choat, Cheralene Choat, William Cane, James Cone, Jayne Crozier, Alison Cairns, Lucille Curd, Hunter Curd, Amy Crozier, Malcolm Cairns, Raymond Christey, Karin Clemens, Kelly Clemens, Katrina Daley, Mark Davis, Mai Davis, Stuart Durie, Arron Duff, Joanne Freear, Caron Goodwin, Barbara Griffiths, Grant Goodwin, Tracey Goodwin, Leonie Goodwin, Jillian Hart, Christopher Hampton, Charlotte Hilgendorf, Henrietta Hilgendorf, Hamish Irwin, Daryle George Lister, Paul Letham, Jason Frederick Lewis, Tanya Le Cheminant, Renee Le Cheminant, Simon Lemon, Ian Letham, Kelly Lister, Sarah-Jane Lewis, Janine Logan, James Lemon, Marina Music, Joanne Mechaelis, Phillipa Mechaelis, Justine Maw, Andrew Maw, Matthew Molloy, Simon Molloy, Colleen McEvedy, Russell McIntosh, Wayne McEvedy, Slade McIntosh, Timothy McLaughlin, Paul McQuillan, Darren McQuillan, Jacqueline Newall, Jeremy O'Donnell, Belinda O'Donnell, Leslie Page, Arthur Page, Terry Pannett, Carol Page, Christopher Pike, Neville Page, Catherine Petersen, David Petersen, Christine Quigley, Andrew Robertson, Ashley Ross, Adrian Robertson, Christopher Robertson, Simon Sankey, Wendy Sides, Mary Stewart, Paul Sides, Roanna Swaine, Andrew Sides, Kate Sankey, Symon Spicer, Arran Thomson, Hamish Vaughan, Kane Veltman, Kim Wyllie, Julie Wyllie, Julie Wilson, Elizabeth Wilson, Ingrid Wyllie, Jason White, Aaron White, Edward Wilson, Priscilla Wyllie, Darrell Wendelgest, Shelley White, Paul Wendelgest.

BARRHILL SCHOLL ROLL: 1877-1938

Jane Babbage, Eliza Blackmore, Fred Babbage, Jane Babbage, Richard Babbage, Florence Babbage, Eliza Curd, Hanna Curd, Frank Curd, John Curd, Cassey Curd, Mary Dillon, Eliza Cook, Samuel Cox, Alice Hurst, Margaret Hurst, Elizabeth Hurst, William Hurst, Mary Ann Joen, Mary Joen, Charlotte Lobb, Kate Lobb, John Magson, Alex Orr, Thomas Orr, Anne Radford, Eliza Saunders, Anne Johnston, William Johnston, Thomas Johnston, Jane Magson, Janet Orr, Margaret Orr, Stanley Silvester, Arthur Dent, Thomas Dent, George Taylor, Matthew Orr, Robert Magson, John Babbage, Daniel Hurst, Sarah Magson, George Hurst, Stephen Hurst, James Hurst, Alice Hurst, Alexander Magson, Francis Barclay-Magson, William Smith, Florence Bean, James Bean, John Bean, Mary Bean, William Bean, Henry Hurst, George Hartnell, Ambrose Burrowes, George Blackmore, William Burrowes, Sidney Hartnell, Alice Blackmore, Bessie Jakes, Katie Saunders, Edwin Clark, Sidney Clark, Leonard Hartnell, Nellie Hurst, Janet Blain, Susan Blain, Fanny Davis, Elizabeth Hurst, Annie Magson, Foster Magson, David Hurst, Margaret Blain, William Shannon, James Mills, John Mills, M. Mills, John Shannon, William Hurst, Annie Maxwell, Edward Brick, Elizabeth Brick, Patricia Brick, Amelia Hurst, Angelina Mills, Elsie Blackmore, Margaret Brick, Anthony Blain, Margaret Daly, Nora Daly, John Daly, Alfred Hurst, William Halliday, Edith Hartnell, Mary Ann Daly, Beatrice Mills, Annie Mills, Francis Lambert, Ernest Hurst, Monaca Midgeley, Elsie Brick, Alfred Lowe, Henry Lowe, William Passmore, David Stewart, Agnes Blain, Lucy Spoon, Henry Lambert, Nora Spring, Daniel Daly, Catherine Daly, Brian O'Connell, Margaret O'Connell, William Brick, David Penney, James Collison, Wilkie Penney, Georgina Collison, Sydney James, Emma Brimicombe, Sarah Mills, Ruby Penney, Ellen Blain, Ellen Anskey, Fredrick Collison, Kathleen Brick, Elsie Daly, Olive Suttie, Harry Smith, Sydney Smith, Volantine Smith, Percy Collison, Sydney Bishop, James Penney, Elsie Inwood, John Brick, Percy Kime, Ethel Bishop, Margaret Spring, Grace Mills, Leonard Mead, Lawrence Mead, Ruby Mead, Albert Parris, John O'Connell, Dora O'Connell, Ingle Bishop, Arthur Gadd, George Gadd, Bertha Gadd, Winnie Gadd, Lena Spring, Vincent Daly, Robert Blain, William Gadd, Kathleen Shannon, Stafford Shannon, Ruby Shannon, Lizzie Shannon, Gertrude Bishop, Dora Penney, David O'Connell, Thomas Clinton, James Clinton, Leslie Clinton, Hilda Clinton, William Lockhard, Mary Penney, Rubina Bishop, William Stewart, Ruth Stewart, David Stewart, Mary Spring, Ada Brimicombe, Rita Collison, Grace Ballagh, James Webley, Alice Bishop, Patrick O'Connell, Gordon Adams, Kathleen Spring, Annie Clinton, Kate Penney, Victor Leaman, May Bishop, William Clinton, Ernest Adam, Leslie Law, Addie Law, Wilfred Law, Hugh Law, James O'Connell, Beryl Ballagh, Ina Gadd, George Bishop, Ethel Leaman, William Penney, Alec Blair, Norman Clinton, Douglas Collison, Vera Law, William Stockdill, Gladys Stockdill, Priscilla Rainey, Rosina Leaman, Roy Lealand, Norman Hurst, Ronald Hodgen, Annie Penney, Hugh Rainey, Clyne Hurst, Eileen Hale, Eva Hale, Percy Hale, Olive Thomas, Vida Thomas, David Boyd, Molly Farquhar, Alice Farquhar, George Farquhar, Patrick Clinton, Arthur Farquhar, Betty Hurst, Blanche Nixon, Gordon Dixon, Hector Milne, Raymond Bishop, Amelia Milne, Allan Bishop, Bernice Cairns, Dorothy Cairns, James Cairns, Milda Cairns, Thelma Cairns, Leslie Blain, Robert Penney, Edward Shirley, Aileen Samuels, Ivy Leaman, Irene Bishop, Ilene McIlraith, Hilda Schaffer, Katie Glustein, Winnie Leaman, Maude Douglas, Leslie Douglas, Rita Douglas, Clifford Bishop, Mary McIlraith, Mary Shirley, Carl Glustein, Margaret Farquhar, Horace Leaman, Margery Jewell, Olive Samuels, Albert Benbow, Kura Coward, James Samuels, Jack Coward, Gordon Collison, Chloe Collison, Maxwell Collison, Ronald Hart, Gladys Douglas, Harold Bishop, Reginald Penney, William Jones, Maisie Jones, Edward Hurst, Nancy Power, Stanley Leaman, Shirley Cunningham, Joyce Sharman, Tyrell Smith, John Campbell, William Holmes, Winnie Collison, May Payne, Raymond Payne, Catherine Nairn, Hetty Nairn, William Honeywell, Jack Ede, Anzac Bishop, Jean Holmes, Bessie Tizzard, Edna Smith, Margaret Nairn, Joyce Hayward, Isabel McGeorge, Beulah McGeorge, Hazel McGeorge, Gwendoline Hurst, Cyril Hurst, Stanley Meldrum, Annie Meldrum, Helen Meldrum, Garty Meldrum, Leonard Hurst, Myra Fairey, Ruth Fairey, George Giltrap, Ernest Giltrap, Joseph Giltrap, Edward Denis, John Kesteven, Willoughby Kesteven, Ethel Sharp, Alan Maw, Gordon Cunningham, Francis Dixon, Gordon Maw, John Letham, Ronald Robinson, Graham McLean, Eric Robinson, Alberta Sandrey, Marion Sandrey, Ruth Sandrey, Frances Sandrey, Joyce Leaman, Olive Fairey, John Mangin, Myrtle Hurst, William Brockie, Nancy Brockie, Mona McLean, William Hurst, George Hayward, Nessie Meldrum, Eric Hurst, Margaret Campion, Jean Campion, David Campion, John Dixon, Shona McLean, Joyce Little, Hazel Hooper, Grace March, Sylvia March, Doris Stephens, Arnold Stephens, Daphne Stephens, Dolly Hurst, Francis Clemens, Phyllis Bailey, Edna Gilmore, Jane Thompson, Thelma Hurst, Edmonds Hooper, Arthur Dixon, Doris Harkness, Joyce Clemens, Norman Maw, Florence Hazeldine, Noel Hurst, Melba Hazeldine, Arthur Stephens, Ngaire Gemmell, Nancy Doak, Elizabeth Hooper, Anne Fairey, Elizabeth Hurst, Alison Hughes, Lorna Maw, Gertrude Clemens, Ngaire McLean, Bruce Hayward, James McLean, Arnold Hurst, Marjory Nicoll, Patricia Williams, Betty Williams, Trevor Joli, Raymond Hurst, Dorothy Clemens, Charles Hooper, Colin McLachlan, Gloria Bushell, Stephen Cone, Lillie Mooney, Edna Rennie, Peter Clinton, Jean Clinton.

AUTOGRAPHS

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